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BY MARKE B.
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Welcome to the 40th annual Best of the Bay — a celebration of all the people, places, and things that make the Bay Area the best place to live in the world. For four decades now, Best of the Bay has been cataloging Guardian readers' favorites in local food and drink, arts and entertainment, shopping, city living, and more. Y'all have awesome taste!

Lately when it comes to the Bay Area, "change" has been the dominant subject of conversation — especially in terms of what's been lost in arts, industry, creative types, and overall freak factor. But change can be a great positive motivator, and in celebrating the things no longer with us, we keep their spirits alive — and at the ready to help us embrace new beginnings.

That's why we've chosen Día De Los Muertos/Day of the Dead as this year's Best of the Bay theme, to pay tribute to the great Bay Area institutions and characters that have passed on, to recognize and support the communities most at risk among us, and to inspire everyone to keep fighting to preserve the wonderful character and diversity of this stunning place we call home. There are still amazing things happening here: fascinating new things to discover, interesting new characters to meet, incredible new spots to explore.

This year's Best of the Bay is a particularly poignant one. Our readers voted for Robin Williams as Best Actor, a lovely tribute to this quintessential local spirit. Best Salsa Club winner Café Cocomo just last month closed the doors of its permanent location, which will be demolished to make way for condos. (Cocomo itself survives as a roving party.) Lusty Lady, the feminist co-op that won Best Strip Club for decades, closed last year, making way for a new winner. A beloved arts space (CellSpace) was resurrected from the dead by true believers only to have its latest incarnation (InnerMission) soon face the wrecking ball.

But fantastic transformations and resurrections float through this issue as well: a theater bar in a former canning factory (Z Space) and a BBQ restaurant in another former canning factory (Smokestack at Magnolia Dogpatch). Le Video (Best Video Store), found new life when it joined forces with Green Apple (Best Overall Bookstore), now occupying the upstairs floor of vintage media powerhouse Green Apple Books on the Park. Tu Lan, closed earlier this year, reopened in time to tie for Best Budget Restaurant. And all of our Local Heroes embody the rewards of community-building and activism.

We therefore present this year's Best of the Bay as an ofrenda to the spirit of the Bay Area that lives on in each and every one of us.

More than 15,000 of our readers voted in this year's Best of the Bay Readers Poll for their local, independent favorites in more than 200 categories like Best Burrito, Best Band, Best Shoe Store, Best Place to Watch the Sunset, Best Drag Queen, and beyond. You'll find the voting results inside — as well as 150 Best of the Bay Editors Picks highlighting some Guardian favorites, old and new, that we think deserve some special recognition for our lives this year.

In 1974, Esquire magazine asked us for ideas for its Best of the USA issue, which led us to publish the original Best of the Bay. Forty years later — and 48 years after we opened our doors — we're still going strong, powered by our readers and the idea that the strength of our community can make the world a better place.

Editing this year's issue was a hoot. I shower grateful smooches on all my fabulous collaborators, especially creative ace Brooke Ginnard; illustrator Jeremy Fish; the awesome Guardian editorial, sales, and production staff; and the ever-supportive Hunky Beau, my own personal Best of the Bay.

But most of all we thank you, dear reader, for your generous participation, for making the Bay Area such an astounding place to live, and for turning us on to great new things this year. Enjoy the celebration on the pages that follow. But first close your eyes and call up the spirits — past, present, and to come — of all that makes the Bay Area the marvelous place it is. **SFBG**



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ABOUT THE ARTIST

In working with iconic SF fine artist, commercial illustrator and designer, sculptor, street artist, and San Francisco Art Institute alumnus Jeremy Fish, the Guardian revisits an old friend: “I did freelance illustration for the SFBG in the 2000s. I was working while living illegally in a closet in the original SFBG building. Shout out to my landlord back then for being awesome.” This year, Fish — whose imagery falls “somewhere between cute and creepy” — celebrated 20 years in San Francisco with a huge gallery show and a book (*Happily Ever After*). A resident of North Beach, Fish says interested parties can find his work at www.silypinkbunnies.com, www.upperplayground.com, “or stop by the best neighborhood in SF, North Beach, and wander around. I have numerous signs and murals decorating my favorite spots in the hood.”

PHOTO OF JEREMY FISH BY MICHAEL HIPPIE

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Best Locally Produced TV Show
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BEST OF THE BAY

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PARTY WITH US!

Join us Friday, Nov. 14, 6-8:30pm, at the **de Young Museum** in Golden Gate Park for a free party celebrating the **Best of the Bay** — and the opening of the de Young's **Keith Haring** exhibition. Music, art, dancing, drinks, and all that makes the Bay Area great!

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Monica Maduro and La Contessa, image courtesy FAMSF



BEST OF THE BAY

LOCAL HEROES

ASPIRE



ASPIRE, CREATED TO SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH, FEARLESSLY PUSHES FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM.

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY ERIN CONGER

Nationwide, an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants remain in limbo without a pathway to citizenship. While community-led campaigns have yielded legislation that creates safeguards against deportation for young people who arrived with their parents as children, bureaucratic nightmares and forced deportations continue unabated.

One particular group of youth immigration activists has not only taken the courageous step of publicly identifying as undocumented, but has pushed back against the fear and stigma often associated with undocumented status by putting out a resounding call for immigration reform. Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education, or ASPIRE (www.facebook.com/aspiredreamers), has been at the forefront of the youth immigrants' rights movement in San Francisco over the past year, organizing multiple actions to call for a more just system that incorporates greater fairness for immigrant youth and their families.

In November of 2013, when President Barack Obama made an appearance in San Francisco, a member of ASPIRE named Ju Hong inter-

rupted the president's speech to call upon him to take executive action to limit the number of deportations taking place. "Interestingly, you talked about Angel Island during your speech," the ASPIRE member whose family came to the United States from South Korea when he was 11, wrote up in an open follow-up letter to Obama explaining why he'd "heckled" him. "What you did not mention, however, is that more people are detained every single day in detention today than were detained yearly at Angel Island."

ASPIRE is housed under Asian Americans Advancing Justice, a part of the Asian Law Caucus, and has been operating for six years, according to Akiko Aspillaga, community organizer. Following a conference for undocumented Asian youth held at UC Berkeley, ASPIRE grew into a more coordinated movement as efforts to pass the California DREAM Act move forward, ultimately securing the ability for undocumented youth to apply for financial aid.

"From there, when we saw that our very own members were going to go through deportation, we started a Change.org petition and had our first ASPIRE-led rally in front of the ICE building," Aspillaga explained.

Also last November, ASPIRE helped to organize a protest blockade of a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement bus that was carrying detainees, with many of the protesters risking arrest in doing so due to their undocumented status.

These days, ASPIRE is focusing on a campaign to increase immigrant access to health care. Aspillaga explained that youth organizers had heard so many accounts of youth who feared calling 911 for a medical emergency out of concern that it would lead to deportation.

ASPIRE is also working on a campaign to reach out to Asian Pacific Islanders and encourage API youth to apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which allows certain undocumented young people who came to the U.S. as children to apply for employment authorization. The idea is "not just to increase the application, but also for it to be more talked about in our community," Aspillaga said. For those who live in San Francisco as undocumented residents born outside the US, "There is still a stigma and there is still shame." ASPIRE deserves recognition for reversing that perception with its mantra: "Undocumented and unafraid." **SFBG**

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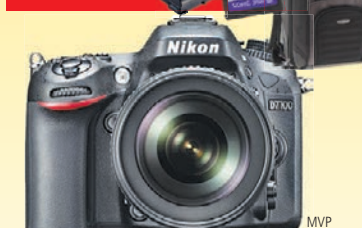
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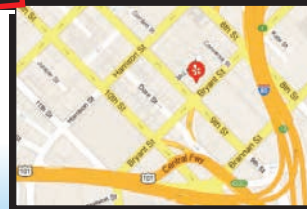
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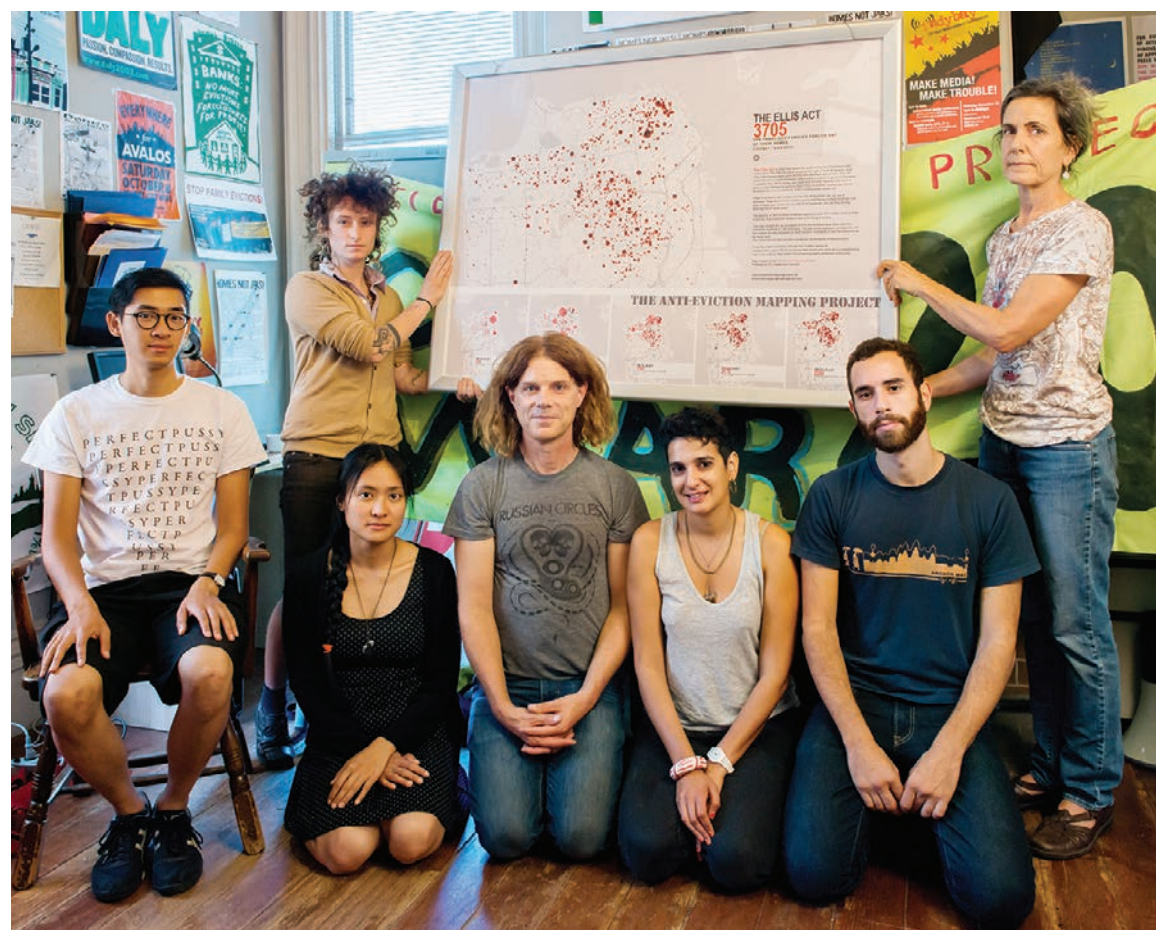
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BEST OF THE BAY

LOCAL HEROES

ANTI-EVICTION MAPPING PROJECT



THE DATA ACTS BEHIND THE ANTI-EVICTION MAPPING PROJECT ARE FIGHTING FOR RENTERS' RIGHTS.

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

THE G-LIST

THE GUARDIAN'S TOP TO DOS



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In late 2012, as San Francisco's real estate market heated up — and with it a growing epidemic of residential evictions of long-time city residents — a group of tech-savvy affordable housing activists became frustrated by the lack of meaningful city data on the problem.

"It really started because I started looking for statistics on people being evicted. Everyone knew there was a major eviction crisis underway, but it was hard to get data on it," artist and activist Erin McElroy told us.

So she and her fellow housing activists decided to correct the problem and start the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project (www.anti-evictionmappingproject.net), which does deep-dive research into available housing and eviction data and transforms it into useful compilations and compelling visuals.

The group started in early 2013 by releasing a time-lapse data visualization of annual evictions in San Francisco from 1997 to the present day, graphically illustrating the displacement that was taking place in the city. Later, the group identified the "Dirty Dozen" biggest serial evictors in the city, the handful of real estate speculators responsible for multiple evictions, complete with mug shots of the perpetrators and links to supporting data (see "Confronting the speculators," 1/14/14).

"This is a very visual culture, and a lot of people here think visually, so to have these maps really helps it sink it," McElroy told us.

The group would drill down on particularly egregious offenders, such as Urban Green and the McCloskey family behind it, using eye-catching visuals to show

the intensity of their evictions here — including a propensity for evicting elderly tenants — relative to other cities where they owned properties.

The group's work helped elevate public understanding of the problem and fuel activism that made evictions and displacement the top issue in the city (see "Year of Evictions," 12/31/13), helped save some residents from evictions, and laid the foundation for reforms like Prop. G, the anti-speculation tax on the November ballot.

"It's an uphill battle for sure. We're really fighting against big money in politics. But we've had a lot of wins in recent months," McElroy told us recently, citing high-profile cases in which evictions have been withdrawn under pressure from activists, including those of artist Benito Santiago and the residents at 1049 Market St. **SFBG**

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BEST OF THE BAY

LOCAL HEROES

NIGHT MINISTRY



MINISTERS FROM SAN FRANCISCO NIGHT MINISTRY HELP TROUBLED SOULS IN THE WEE HOURS.

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

Rev. Lyle Beckman recalls a typical night many years ago. Clad in his clerical collar as he strode Polk Street, he encountered a man afraid that the world was under siege from alien invaders. Beckman took the man to a nearby coffee shop and learned more about the man's mental health issues and crippling fear of death.

Beckman listened and occasionally offered advice. When they were finished, Beckman pulled a poem out of his pocket and handed it to the man, and continued on his mission.

"We're here to provide crisis intervention and counseling in the middle of the night. We're someone who is not there to hurt you, judge you, to tell you you're wrong or crazy," Beckman said. "We just want to share your burden."

The San Francisco Night Ministry, under Beckman's leadership for the last eight years, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Since 1964, the organization has been providing crisis intervention and counseling for San Francisco's downtrodden in the middle of the night, a critical time often neglected by city services.

In neighborhoods with troubled souls on the streets, ministers can be found in coffee shops, dive bars, and walking the streets. They are open

for conversation with anyone who needs it. Each night, volunteers also operate a crisis hotline.

The Night Ministry began its mission as a service for youth on the street back in the early '60s, when San Francisco was Zion for runaway youth. When it ran out of money and luck and some began to slip through the cracks, the San Francisco Council of Churches stepped in to help continue this mission.

Since then, it has reinvented itself as many times as the city itself. In the late '60s and '70s, it caught the fallout of the Summer of Love. In the '80s, it helped find shelter and services for people living with AIDS and HIV. Now, it has expanded to help people who are losing their housing or can't find affordable housing, the mentally ill, and people living with drug addictions.

Beckman is no greenhorn in the field. For 25 years before he joined the Ministry he was a Lutheran pastor in New Jersey, Nebraska, and Hartford, Connecticut. "I've always been around people who are struggling with poverty, anger and violence, mental health issues," he said. "All of my ministry in urban settings, with people with great needs and suffering prepared me for my work we do every night."

Activists for San Francisco's homeless have been struggling since former Mayor Gavin Newsom launched his Care Not Cash program using rhetoric that demonized those on the streets, said Jennifer Friedenbach of the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness.

"Under Newsom there was an attitude that if you make it as uncomfortable as possible then homelessness will really disappear," she said.

She says that Proposition G (the anti-speculation tax) could help the cause by keeping people from being displaced from their homes, and that Proposition J (raising the minimum wage) could help people make ends meet and stay off the street. But Beckman and the Night Ministry will always have an important role to play.

"The first thing is for the people of San Francisco to realize that these are human beings," Beckman said. "There's so much anger and resentment, I wish they would remember that these people were loved. They had all the potential as anyone else, but somewhere along the way, something happened. They made bad choices or fell to circumstances. I wish we were a more compassionate city. After all, we are the city of Saint Francis." **SFBG**

BEST OF THE BAY

LOCAL HEROES

CARECEN

Every day in San Francisco, Central American children as young as 7 years old stand before an immigration judge and plead for asylum.

They often have no attorney, and many do not speak English. Part of President Obama's expedited immigration program known as the "rocket docket," the judge's decision to return the children to Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras often sends them into the arms of ferocious teenage drug gangs. A ticket home is often a ticket to violence, and nine out of 10 minors without attorneys on the rocket docket are sent home.

That's when national groups like the Central American Resource Center (CARACEN, www.caracensf.org) step in. The local office, here in San Francisco since the '80s, operates with two attorneys, a handful of paralegals, and some support staff, all devoted to defending children and teenagers who seek refuge in the United States.

"It was bad," Brian, a 12-year-old, told the Guardian. "We couldn't live in peace. There were too many gang members. They often killed children and young teenage boys."

Children like Brian trek from Central America through Mexico, huddling together for warmth along cold desert trails, often riding the backs of massive freight trains dubbed The Beast.

They often have little choice but to flee. Death comes in myriad ways in Central America. A man at one immigration rally described a young boy who was cut into six pieces. The boy's grandfather unearthed the boy's limbs, one by one, so the fam-

ily could bury him whole. The number of unaccompanied minors in the United States saw an unprecedented spike this year, as more than 50,000 crossed US borders, often ending up in federal detention centers. Many make their way to San Francisco.

A few groups in SF seek to help these unaccompanied minors stay in the United States: Legal Services

enemies are your neighbors.

"This civil war was funded by US dollars. The US has to take responsibility for creating this storm," Dugan-Cuadra told us. "The mainstream media perpetuates the idea that things happening in the world are disconnected to us, that somehow we're always the savior."

The reality is much the opposite. The Central American gangs feed off the United States' appetite for drugs, and the guns are exported from the US as well.

That perspective informs CARECEN's marches, rallies, and unified voice as it cries out against unjust federal policies. Yet despite a recent boost of over \$2 million from the Board of Supervisors, which will soon fund more attorneys to take more immigration cases, there are still too many children, too few attorneys. Each attorney can handle about 25 cases at a time, Dugan-Cuadra told us. As hundreds of children await representation, many will never get it.

"There are those cases that affect you more than others," Maria Villalta, a legal assistant

at CARECEN said. "Like when a 13-year-old girl tells you she was sexually assaulted during entry. We're taking in this trauma, and we have to live with that."

The staff and attorneys at CARECEN have to make hard choices — which child do they help, and which child do they allow to be deported back to a country where kidnapping and murder is the norm?

It's hard, Dugan-Cuadra told us. But she put it simply: "All children are sacred." **SFBG**



THE CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER HELPS UNDOCUMENTED MINORS STAY IN THE US. GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

for Children, Catholic Charities, Dolores Street Services, the Asian Law Caucus, and CARECEN. Frankly, they're all heroes. But CARECEN deserves special accolades not only for its care of children, but its unabashed activism.

"War left us with great social and emotional scars," said Laria Dugan-Cuadra, the executive director of CARECEN. She's referring to Guatemala's decades-long civil war, which peaked in violence in the 1980s. "The war ended but your

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CITY LIVING

EDITORS' PICKS



BEST NEW GRIND: SOMA WEST SKATE PARK

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY TIM DAW

BEST NEW GRIND

San Francisco's status as a legendary skate spot tumbled and bailed in the past decade as skatestoppers (metal brackets) gummed up the grinds at historic skate spots like EMB (the Embarcadero), Hubba Hideout, Wallenberg, and Pier 7. But with this year's unveiling of the new **SoMa West skate park** underneath a busy freeway overpass, SF skating got a shot in the arm. The park's ramps and blocks are architectural throwbacks to skating spots of yore. (SoMa West was funded by San Francisco Public Works.) Thrashers of all ages ollie, grind, and carve over the new ramps and rails on the daily. And though a few neighbors complain about the noise, let 'em crow: This is a skate revival here in the SFC. Legendary Bayview skater Larry Redmon's saying, "We out here," was never more real. All that's needed to make it perfect is a bathroom.

Duboce between Valencia and Otis, SF.

BEST CUTE QUIPS

It's hardly ever hawking lemonade, but this tiny outdoor stand near Noe and Market streets does serve up a steady supply of timely humor and social commentary via its constantly-changing chalkboard marquee. "Earthquake prediction 5 cents," "Google Glass returns and rentals (5 cent returns, \$1500 rentals)," "Now hiring: LEGO Master Builder. Starting pay: 5 cents" are just a few of the quips delivered by **Noe So Cute** this past year. A quick #NoeSoCute hashtag search on Instagram will reveal many more, including some poignant *mots juste* on a changing San Francisco and world: "Bitcoin exchange," "Closed due to government shutdown," "Rain." Named for the plethora of "Awww, so cute!" comments it elicits from passersby, the stand owes its levity from neighbors, who take turns updating the sign that has become a good read on the pulse of the local community.

233 Noe, SF.

BEST CRUISE WITH A VIEW

San Francisco trail runners with wheels have a huge web of wooded wonderland trails available for their workouts. The glorious Mill-Valley-to-Stinson-Beach Dipsea Trail, or the mossy confines of Oakland's Redwood Regional Park, can be reached in 45-ish minutes, if traffic on whichever bridge you have to cross isn't too gnarly. Fortunately for the car-free, the San Francisco segment of the **California Coastal Trail** offers challenging, (mostly) off-road turf with spectacular views to boot — including a killer glimpse of the Golden Gate Bridge. Start at the GGB toll plaza and work your way past the Presidio and down to Baker Beach, along posh Sea Cliff sidewalks, to Lands End, then past the Sutro Baths ruins, and all the way along the Pacific past Lake Merced to Fort Funston. If time (or distance — it's nearly 11 miles in total) is an issue, just the bridge-to-Cliff House route

CONTINUES ON PAGE 20 >>



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BEST CRUISE WITH A VIEW

CONT>>

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BEST STREET LIFE

Every few weeks from March through October, the streets of a different San Francisco neighborhood are transformed into a welcoming, car-free space filled with slow-pedaling cyclists, frolicking children, whirling dancers, and meandering community members from all over. San Francisco was one the first US cities to adopt this temporarily car-free ciclovía concept from Colombia, dubbing ours **Sunday Streets**, and the event's proven to be a huge success — an easy way to create open space for a day in this built-out city, it recently celebrated its 50th installment. The season closer for this year will be on Oct. 19 in the Mission District, always one of the most popular spots. We'll see you out there.
www.sundaystreetssf.com

BEST FLUSH OF KNOWLEDGE

While the above-ground, pedal-powered "Sewer Tours" have been happening in the city for several years now — a testament to both San Francisco's endless curiosity for infrastructure and boundless enthusiasm for bicycling — the routes, like the sewers, have continued to morph. This year's **San Francisco Sewer Tour**, a 12-mile epic journey from the wind-buffed flanks of San Bruno Mountain, to

the vivid valleys of the Bayview, was by far our favorite, and judging from the ambitious turnout despite a last-minute reschedule, we weren't the only ones lured by the idea of a sewer tour which required no rubber boots or high-powered flashlights, but rather low gears, picnic lunches, and a few orange safety vests. In 2014, the sewer tour visited the locations of four watersheds while tracing the course of our subterranean sewage system. We're not sure if the organizers can top it next year, but we're certainly willing to find out.
www.milesestein.com

BEST PUTTERING AROUND TOWN

A miniature golf course in a former mortuary? Why not? We are, after all, in San Francisco, where ironic rebirths of classic entertainment reign — especially if there's good food involved. But **Urban Putt** isn't your grandma's mini golf course. Hit a ball into a tunnel, only to watch it reappear on the ceiling, then cascade down a wall that doubles as a musical instrument, playing you a tune before the ball finally drops into the hole. With San Francisco-themed Rube Goldberg devices like the "TransAmerica Windmill" and earthquake-shaking Painted Ladies (owner Steve Fox used 3D printers to design the course), everyone can be Happy Gilmore here. And of course there are organic, locally-sourced snacks, as well as cocktails, which take the center stage when the course goes 21 and over at 8pm. (Before that, the place is 100 percent



BEST WAY TO GET IN TUTU SHAPE: CARDIO BARRE (ABOVE); BEST SPA-SITIVE AFFIRMATION: ARIA SKIN AND BODY (BOTTOM RIGHT) GUARDIAN PHOTO OF CARDIO BARRE BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

family friendly.)

1096 South Van Ness, SF. (415) 341-1080,
www.urbanputt.com

BEST SPA-SITIVE AFFIRMATION

If you subscribe to the view that energy flow determines the health of the body, mind, and spirit, you're overdue for a healing bodywork session at **Aria Skin and Body**. Sessions here can resemble traditional massage, but don't be surprised if your therapist takes her hands off you — treatment focuses on releasing stress and tension that block the path of energy, and isn't just about physical manipulation of flesh. You can also grab a facial or wax from the spa's founder, esthetician Thy Pham. Her positive energy is addicting — she's really into the inner beauty of everyone who walks through her doors, which you can feel even when she's ripping your hair out by the roots. Still, Aria's not just a pretty face. Pham strives to be as eco-friendly with her business as possible, and would never dare to touch your gorgeous bod with an animal-tested product.

500 Sutter St., Suite 601, SF.
(415) 250-5340, www.ariaskinandbody.com

BEST PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL POSES

San Franciscans take their yoga seriously, and the city is filled with dozens of big studios that feature marquee yoga instructors offering a broad range of styles and schticks. But we prefer our yoga a little more down-to-earth (and, being starving journalists, cheaper). So we've become big fans of **Yoga to the People**, a donation-based (\$10 per class is the suggested fee — but you can drop whatever you want in the Kleenex box), hourlong, anti-guru

(no teacher names are listed on the schedule, you get whoever you get) alternative to big studio flows. Shoutout to the San Francisco studio, a big, beautiful room near the 16th Street BART that gets packed with fellow sweaty, bendy souls. 2973 16th St., SF; 64 Shattuck Sq., Berk. www.yogatothepeople.com

BEST NEWS SITE THAT CLIMBS EVERY MOUNTAIN

Long-time Bay Guardian editor Tim Redmond, who left us last year, is doing outstanding journalism on his new website **48 Hills**, blessing San Francisco with another progressive news outlet that was sorely needed. Redmond has a deep institutional memory of the city's socio-political history, insightful writing style, and commitment to high journalistic standards. Using donations from the community and small grants, he's created a clean and compelling site that strives to be more like a well-reported newspaper than news aggregator, regularly breaking important stories. Another former Guardianista, Caitlin Donohue, also does events listing on the site her inimitable style. They're regularly joined by other important Bay Area voices. And that name? "There are 47 named hills in San Francisco, but when it comes to social and economic justice, there's always one more to climb."

www.48hills.org

BEST GLOBAL WARRIORS

Flying feet and firing fists fill the dojo at the Inner Sunset's **World Team USA**, a premiere Muay Thai training spot. Coach Kru Ajarn Sam Phimsoutham (Kru Sam to his friends) is committed to whipping even the previously couch-bound into fighting shape, and his team has already produced one star in Ky Hollenbeck, who fought a nationally televised fight at Madison Square Garden last year. World Team's newest up-and-comer is a San Francisco native: Robby Squyres Jr., an underdog whose star rose in the Battle of the Pacific amateur tournament. World Team USA is not just about jocks kicking each other to a bloody pulp, however (though they do that too). The dojo also teaches



anti-bullying classes at local high schools, and fighters are unyielding and unstoppable, but they also value respect and the quest for inner peace. 445 Judah, SF. (415) 759-1510,
www.worldteamusa.com

CONTINUES ON PAGE 22 >>



BEST CUTE QUIPS: NOE SO CUTE INSTAGRAM PHOTO BY @GAMBITTHEFRENCHIE

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BEST OF THE BAY



AMANDA GUEST, AKA COSMIC AMANDA (LEFT), RUNS BFF.FM, BEST FREQUENCIES FOREVER

GUARDIAN PHOTOS BY ERIN CONGER

CONT>>

BEST TIME TRAVEL ON TWO WHEELS

Join a **Shaping San Francisco** bike ride and discover aspects of San Francisco history that you'd never get on top of one of those hulking hop-on-hop-off tour buses. For example: What

do you know about 1934's General Strike and how its aftermath influenced our city's radical working-class history? Tales of labor battles, ecological history, even foundations of the transit system can all be found on these bicycle and walking tours led by Chris Carlsson, who provides a unique look at the rich layers that

make up this urban landscape. Nor are these stimulating excursions the only gift co-founder Carlsson's non-profit imparts to the city. Shaping SF's Digital Scanning Project showcases historical collections with neighborhood newspapers, some of which are out of print, in order to make them available as online historical resources.

www.shapingsf.org

BEST FREQUENCIES FOREVER

Internet radio comes with certain freedoms: few responsibilities to advertisers, more immediate connection to listeners, the ability to accidentally utter expletives without fear of punishment from the FCC. And hey, the Guardian can even host its own show! But our ability to raise hell (and sometimes swear) through our bi-weekly BFF.FM Alternative Ink program isn't the only reason we believe that this vibrant online radio station warrants a Best of the Bay honor. **BFF.FM** — Best Frequencies Forever to those in the know — is a gardener of grooves, cultivating a flourishing community of music lovers, DJs, and other creative types. The always-growing lineup includes shows like Dig This! (jazz/funk/hip-hop grooves from across the cosmos), Burrito Justice Radio (tagline: "Like Twitter for the radio"), and Radio Shoe ("themed playlists that make you feel things"). Kudos to Cosmic Amanda, BFF.FM station manager, for filling the city with fresh new sound.

www.bff.fm

BEST LANDSCAPE EUREKA

Breathe deep before you crest the steep, short **Old Mine Trail** on Mt. Tam — the view's gonna take that

CONTINUES ON PAGE 24 >>



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BEST OF THE BAY



BEST STREET LIFE: SUNDAY STREETS (ABOVE); ROBBY SQUYRES JR. PRACTICES AT WORLD TEAM USA, BEST GLOBAL WARRIORS SF EXAMINER PHOTO OF SUNDAY STREETS BY CINDY CHEW; PHOTO OF ROBBY SQUYRES JR. BY MIKE KOOZMIN

BEST LANDSCAPE EUREKA

CONT>>

air right from your lungs. Suddenly, to the right, your stunned self will be taking in the entire San Francisco skyline, not to mention miles of the bay: On a clear day, the scene will include both bridges. Oakland and the East Bay expand to one's left, a perfect geography lesson for the under-informed. Being but a short trek (3/4 of a mile) to its picturesque top, the Old Mine Trail is a great spot to finish an all-day trek, or just for a quick trip to eagle-eye our stunning home. Golden hillsides, shaded forest groves, an enchanting bay, and miles of connecting trails between Old Mine and the city will leave you spent (in a good way) before your hiking-shoe heels click back home.

Trailhead at Pantoll Ranger Station, Mount Tamalpais State Park, 3801 Panoramic Hwy, Mill Valley. parks.ca.gov

BEST FONTS OF INFORMATION

The oldest and largest source of typefaces for letterpress printers in the United States is located right in San Francisco's backyard. Established in 1915, **M&H Type Foundry** uses historic machinery dating back to the Panama Pacific International Exposition, and houses an extensive collection of fonts and types in its Presidio building. Take a peek behind the scenes during one of the site's weekly public tours, which include glimpses of the historic printing and bookmaking facilities at printer-publishers Arion Press, a firm that shares the building with the historic foundry. Other draws for avid letter lovers and font fanatics include demos of traditional typesetting methods that employ hot metal, and hands-on

methodology for book binding.

Tours Thursdays 3:30-5pm, \$10.

Reservations required.

1802 Hays, SF. (415) 668-2548, www.arionpress.com/mandh

BEST JUMPING FOR JOYSTICKS

The '80s never died — they live on in gaudy, trashy glory at **High Scores Arcade**. Here, "Push it real good!" spills from the jukebox as purple neon lights swirl, and it feels oh-so-right to grab the red joystick of a perfectly preserved vintage Donkey Kong game. (A game that hails from the days before Mario became Mario, and instead went by Jumpman.) At High Scores you can handle all the joysticks you want, from Tron to Street Fighter. The highlight of the joint is a custom-built arcade board, which features 100 retro arcade games undoubtedly hailing from your fondest teenage memories, ready to play once again. And before you bust out your quarters, check this out: For a flat entry fee, you get unlimited turns on all the games in the place. Hadoken! 1414 Park, Alameda. (609) 468-3083, www.highscoresarcade.com

BEST IN-YOUR-FACEBOOK

Facebook has become less about posting original status updates (duh, that's what Twitter is for) or perfectly-arranged photos (see: Instagram) and more about sharing news stories

of either hilarious or serious value.

VanishingSF's offerings fall in the later category, the Facebook page acting as a kind of local news aggregator whenever "progress" threatens to squash another element of San Francisco's traditionally artistic, free-thinking spirit. There's a heavy emphasis on housing (landlords behaving badly; skyrocketing rents; more ritzy condos?), but VanishingSF also keeps tabs on other political and cultural issues, recommending articles with bits of



context, quotes, or just a well-timed "WTF?" Of course, it's not all bad news and timely barbs — worries of Taqueria Cancun's landlord battles are cut with well-deserved congrats to our local drag queens whose organizing bested Facebook's regressive birth-name-on-profile policy. www.facebook.com/VanishingSF

BEST BIGFOOTIN'

NorCal trail runners encounter varieties of wildlife on the regular (deer, squirrels, unsteady tourists on bicycles), but only a select few can claim

CONTINUES ON PAGE 26 >>

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BEST OF THE BAY

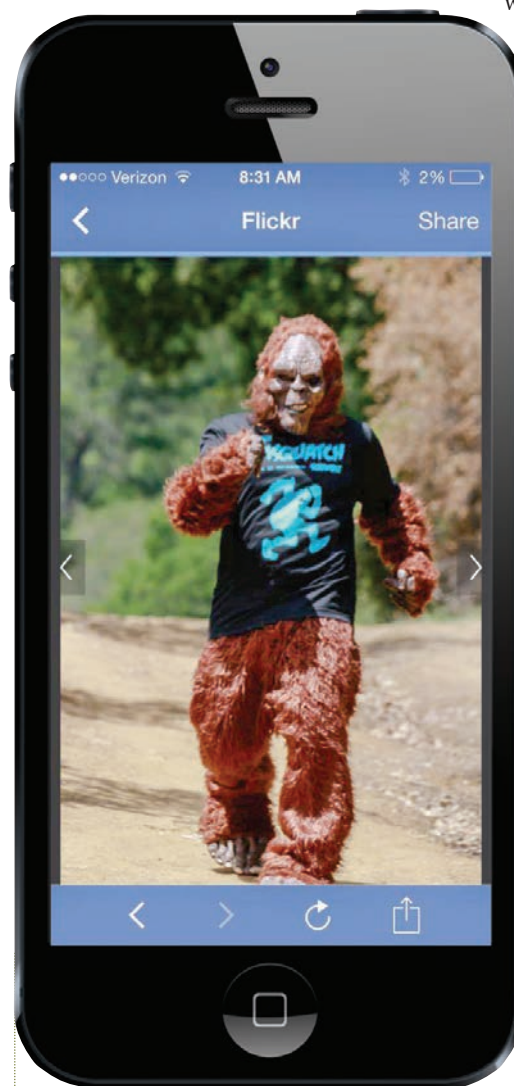
BEST BIGFOOTIN'

CONT>>

to have seen the mighty Bigfoot. Up your chances in the mythic matter by signing up for a half-marathon, 10k, or 5k with **Sasquatch Racing**, which organizes a handful of trail runs each year at parks around the Bay Area. They're all critter-themed

Café. Families, pals, dates, everyone under the sun kicks it on the small eatery's patio, and more recently, its new parklet. A typical scene: someone's adorable tousled-haired kid roams around, playing with a Corgi while neighbors cruise by to wave hello. Really, Simple Pleasures reminds us of a Bohemian *Leave it to Beaver* scene, a Norman Rockwell

with beer. Pull up a seat on any given weekend evening and you're bound to hear some thumping-good live music inside the tiny, hip joint, which claims to be the oldest café in the Richmond. In a city where we often feel so walled off from one another, it really is a place where you can kick back with a cup of joe (roasted in-house) and enjoy the Simple things. 3434 Balboa, SF. (415) 387-4022, www.simplepleasurescoffee.com



BEST WAY TO GET IN TUTU SHAPE

Ah, ballet: the stiff tulle, the slim waists, the toned glutes! No, you need not be Clara from *The Nutcracker* to benefit from **Cardio Barre**, an exercise studio whose fat-burning workouts are based on barre work, with light weights employed for a lengthening and toning effect. (But you can imagine your dancing with those Sugar Plum Fairies while you sweat.)

Proof of the efficacy of

founder Richard Giorla's method lies in the sheer popularity of his classes — Cardio Barre branches have opened doors all up and down the California coast, and the workout plan has even spread to Utah, Tennessee, and soon enough, Florida. You'll be in good company if your en pointe brings you this way: The Black Swan herself has sung the praises of these workouts (we're talking about Amanda Bynes, of course.)

61 Gough, SF. (415) 659-8540, www.cardiobarre.com/studios/san-francisco-ca

BEST FILIPINO BEAT-DAAN

His weapons-based Filipino martial arts form is fast, it flows, and Grand Master Robert Castro of **Eskabo Daan** says some of his favorite athletes to train are those who come from a

CONTINUES ON PAGE 28 >>

BEST BIGFOOTIN': SASQUATCH RACING

(Bobcat Blitz, Rattlesnake Ramble, Honey Badger Half, and the signature Sasquatch Scramble.) They will all route you through woods as hilly as they are gorgeous and you juuust might catch a glimpse of a crypto-zoological wonder, because not only do these guys run hard, they like to have fun — which means at least one costumed Bigfoot handing out high-fives along the way, and beer at the finish line.

www.sasquatchracing.com

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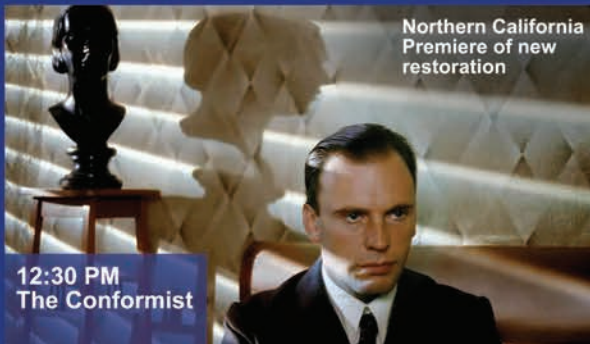
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BERTOLUCCI

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12:30 PM
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6:00 PM
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Presented by Istituto Luce-Cinecittà, Rome and the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco (Director Paolo Barbera). The exhibition is organized by: Program Director Amelia Antonucci, Cinema Italia San Francisco; Camilla Cornanni and Paola Ruggiero of Istituto Luce-Cinecittà. Presented in association with the Ministry of Culture of Italy, under the auspices of the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco (Consul General Mauro Battocchi).



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BEST OF THE BAY



BEST GENE GENIES: NEXGENE GIRLS

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEXGENE GIRLS

BEST FILIPINO BEAT-DAAN

CONT>>

musical background. Why? Because they've already got rhythm, an integral part of the Eskabo Daan training method. The discipline is a mixture of fighting forms Eskrima, Serrada, Kali, Arnis, boxing, and Jeet Kune Do — and if you're wondering, the name is an acronym of all six. Castro has built the practice around community service, and especially

loves inducting teenagers into his ranks. If you're looking for a preview before you enroll, you might go for crab and garlic noodles across the street at Vietnamese joint The Crustacean; the restaurant has a rad view of the fighting floor.

1475 Polk, second floor, SF.
(415) 674-4388, www.eskabodaan.org

BEST GENE GENIES

"They come in with the perception
CONTINUES ON PAGE 30 >>

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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST GENE GENIES

CONT>>

that a scientist is a guy, and he's white," Marlena Jackson told us of the participants in her biotech program for female teens, **Nexgene Girls**. "But when they're done, and they're asked to draw a scientist, they draw a girl. They're not even drawing a woman. They're drawing themselves." Shivers. This is where mental, and by extension economic, power is built — in the internships with professional scientists

that Jackson and co-founder Jeanette Wright's coordinate for young residents of Bayview and Hunter's Point. Biotech is one of the only tech-related industries that boasts strong female participation, and in a Bay Area whose future that seems more and more dependent on technology jobs, it's groups like Nexgene Girls that keep our local kids skills' relevant. www.nexgenegirls.org

BEST SUBTERRANEAN THRILLS

A subterranean labyrinth where

actors lead patrons on a hodgepodge tour of creepy SF-inspired historical haunts — and relate spooky tales of 1850s Alcatraz ghosts, sinister post-Gold Rush crime syndicate the San Francisco Hounds, Wild West saloon owner Miss Piggott, and infamous crimper Shanghai Kelly? Will there be rats? Oh yes, there will be rats, and ingenious torture devices, and other threatening thingamabobs, some chilling, some kinda cheesy (that's the fun). The **San Francisco Dungeon** arrived here this year from the same European

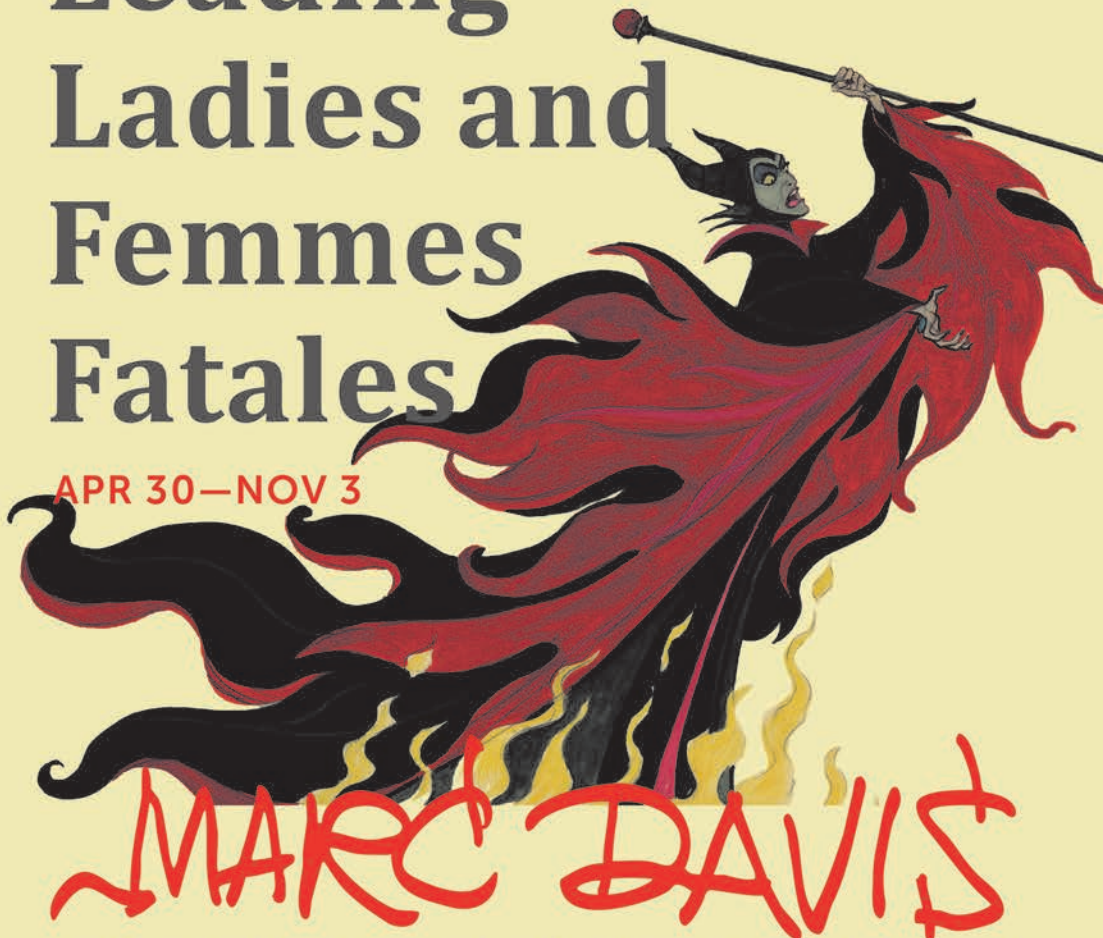
company behind Madame Tussauds and Legoland, and fit right in with the other offerings on Fisherman's Wharf — except for one crucial difference: it's a blast of ghoulish fun that plays off tales from 1850-1907, which includes the rough and tumble Barbary Coast era. (So what if the Dungeon overlooks the 1906 earthquake — presumably that will be covered in a follow-up theme attraction.) You also get to ride a scary boat! 145 Jefferson, SF. (855) 753-9999, www.thedungeons.com/sanfrancisco

BEST TANGIBLE EXPERIENCE

Parents. Put down that glowing screen! Kids, step away from the iPad! It's time for some good ol' fashioned hands-on fun. **Adventure Playground**, a wonderland of a park at the Berkeley Marina, encourages kids to build *actual*, tangible items using *actual* physical tools — taking us back to the days when digital meant "with your fingers." Kids use a metal detector to find nails, trade them in for other tools and paint, and then CONTINUES ON PAGE 32 >>

Leading Ladies and Femmes Fatales

APR 30—NOV 3



Marc Davis is best known for creating beguiling, dynamic, and marvelously designed characters, such as *Sleeping Beauty's* Maleficent, *Peter Pan's* Tinker Bell, and *One Hundred and One Dalmatian's* Cruella de Vil. Fall under the spell of these leading ladies and femmes fatales with an exhibition of Davis' work for The Walt Disney Studios and Disneyland Park, celebrating his ability to bring these beauties to life.

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Marc Davis, visual development for *Sleeping Beauty*, ca. 1959; Collection Mike Glad, © Disney | *Leading Ladies and Femmes Fatales: The Art of Marc Davis* is organized by The Walt Disney Family Museum. | © The Walt Disney Family Museum © Disney Enterprises, Inc. | © 2014 The Walt Disney Family Museum | The Walt Disney Family Museum is not affiliated with Disney Enterprises, Inc.

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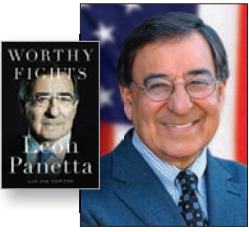


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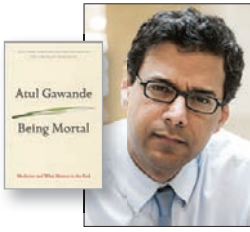
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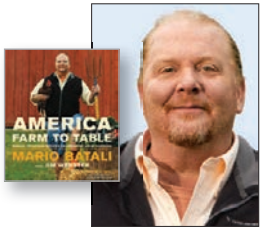
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BEST TANGIBLE EXPERIENCE CONT>>

get to work building the fort of their dreams — or maybe attaching an addition onto the pre-existing play structure. Oh, and there's a zipline, too. No, this isn't the place for helicopter parents (the point is really to let your kid discover the place for themselves), but if you don't mind a little dirt under your little ones' fingernails, it can't be beat.

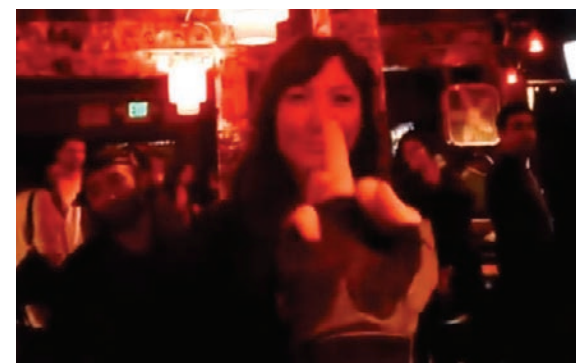
160 University, Berk. www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/adventureplayground

BEST F-WORD HACKERSPACE
Make paper circuits! Become a kernel hacker! Bind buttons! Here at **Double Union**, an unabashedly intersectional, trans-inclusive feminist hackerspace in the heart of the Mission, all is possible. High and low tech mix gleefully, programming and knitting existing in happy tandem. These rebels host work-shops, events, and open houses for the curious noobs (otherwise, members and their guests are the only ones you'll find inside.) Double Union isn't shy about its principles either — "The Internet

Feminists Are Watching You" stickers are available, as are "Not afraid to say the F-word: Feminism" T-shirts. A comprehensive application process ensures that it will stay a safe community center for those who want to empower women in maker spaces, online and off.

333 Valencia, No. 445, SF.
www.doubleunion.org

BEST FREAKIN' FREAK FEST
From its humble beginnings 16 years ago — when the Consortium of Collective Consciousness raves spilled out of their underground warehouse onto Howard Street and into a nascent street fair — to today's 10-stage thumping extravaganza for tens of thousands of fabulous freaks, the **How Weird Street Faire** has become the spring kickoff event to the festival, street fair, and Burning Man seasons in San Francisco. Showcasing the area's top DJ talent on stages built and hosted by various electronic music and burner collectives, How Weird has been busting at its colorfully stitched seams these last few years — it's also become an encouraging meeting point for the city's sadly sometimes-mutually-exclusive arts and tech communities — with organizers hoping 2015 will be the year that city officials finally let them expand an additional block



down Howard Street. We, and many freaks like us, hope so too.

Centered at Howard and Second streets, tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2015, Howweird.org

BEST GLASSHOLE REPELLENT
What's the saying? Never bring a knife to a gun fight? Well, never bring your Google Glass to a place

BEST OF THE BAY



BEST HONORARY MAYOR: PAUL MCCARTNEY

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY SIXTEENTH + BROADWAY PHOTOGRAPHY

called **Molotov's** either. In a dustup seen (and celebrated) around the world, "social media expert" Sarah Slocum wandered with her \$1,500 Google face-contraption into rough-and-tumble Lower Haight bar Molotov's, trailing aggressive entitlement in her wake. The tattooed and tipsy denizens weren't having it, especially when Slocum started recording and insulting them. A fight broke out. Slocum claimed she was attacked and her

purse stolen, although parts of her story began to fall apart, especially when video from her Glass started circulating. We're no fans of violence (and Slocum and her Twitter feed seem to have recovered nicely), but the whole story was truly a tale for our techie times — a clash of old school vs. clueless — with a little delicious comeuppance thrown in for good measure.

582 Haight, SF. (415) 558-8019
CONTINUES ON PAGE 34 >>

A huge thank you to my clients who voted me Best of the Bay's Best Realtor 2014! I am honored you have trusted me with one of the largest and most important decisions one makes in their lifetime. I am truly grateful to work and live in this community which my family has resided in for four generations. I have met some of the most amazing people over my 10 year career and look forward to serving more of you in the near future!



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KELLY LOVEMONSTER AND CAITLIN DONOHUE OF AHDM4U, BEST AHDM4U PHOTO BY MICKEY MOD

CONT>>

BEST AHDM4U

Like everyone else, we have abso-

lutely no idea what the name of this website means. What we *do* know is that it's the coolest thing to happen to San Francisco media in a very long


time. An online lifestyle magazine (slogan: "not a total vanity project") launched last year by writer, feminist, and former Guardian culture editor Caitlin Donohue and model and party promoter Kelly Lovemonster, **AHDM4U** keeps us constantly updated on fashion, parties, music, politics, sexuality, culture, and so very much more. If you thought SF was losing its feisty queer and contemporary arts edge, AHDM4U will come correct with who to know and where to meet them. Recently launched: a Spanish-language section, with reporting from Donohue in her new Mexico City home.
www.ahdm4u.com

BEST HONORARY MAYOR

Does it make us unpatriotic to choose a Briton for this? Well, screw it — er, let it be — because **Paul McCartney** has held court over more momentous and emotional San Francisco experiences in recent years than just about anyone we can think of. From his unforgettable, cathartic set for roughly half the city at Outside Lands in 2013 (complete with coy stage banter about the "wonderful" marijuana smell wafting up from the crowd) to his fireworks-filled, full-circle farewell to Candlestick show on the stadium's last night this past August, we can only hope we're still going that strong, shaking our butts (and signing fans') by the time we turn 72. Until then, Sir Paul — all our loving. And you're invited to any ribbon-cutting you want. **SFBG**

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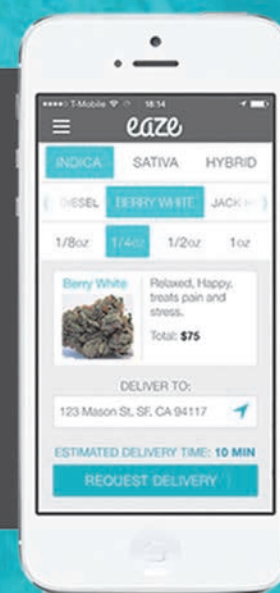
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FOOD & DRINK

EDITORS' PICKS



OWNER CHARLES BILILIES AT SOUVLA, BEST GREEK HEROES

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY ERIN CONGER

BEST GREEK HEROES

So, you had a bit of a decadent weekend and want to downshift a little? Let a huge salad from new Greek favorite **Souvla** in Hayes Valley come to the rescue — and it's open on Mondays, sweet. You can pick from juicy spit-roasted pork shoulder, savory lamb, Rocky Jr. chicken, or vegetarian white sweet potato, and instead of getting it wrapped up in a pillowy pita (yep, you've got a gyro-style option too), you end up getting it mixed into a huge bowl of greens and kale instead, with some fab yogurt-based dressings. Postmates delivers for Souvla by bike, and the salads are positively huge. If you eat on-premise, though, it means you can enjoy a glass of sparkling Greek rosé and a frozen Greek yogurt (get it with baklava!) for dessert — sadly the froyo isn't good for delivery. But wait, you were trying to be virtuous, right? So why do we see you ordering the super-savory Greek fries to put onto the salad? Because you heard about it here, of course.

517 Hayes, SF. (415) 400-5458,
www.souvlasf.com

BEST COCKTAIL CRUISING

You gotta hand it to **Loló** — the super-stylish, family-owned new Mexican hotspot sure manages to draw a good-looking crowd. You'll be distracted here in turns: by the colorful, quirky decor (one wall shimmers with vintage car doors), your handsome neighbors, the inventive Jalisco-Californian dishes, and one stellar cocktail after another, thanks to inventive bar duo David Gallardo and Leon Vasquez. The two are always pushing the envelope, highlighting mezcal in creative ways, while integrating familiar Mexican flavors like hibiscus, pineapple, cinnamon, and citrus. Try the Benito, the Windshield, El Diablito, La Dama, and save the Whisky Frisco for the end of the night. Next time you cruise by — poof — the restaurant will have launched a whole new menu on you, ensuring that you coming back for más. 974 Valencia, SF. (415) 643-5656, www.lolosf.com

BEST SLICE OF HEAVEN

He of the big grin and tasty breads at our town's Divisadero Street

toast mecca is now hosting weekly pizza parties. And we're here to say that Josey Baker's **Monday night pizza at the Mill** makes you want to drop whatever it is you're doing and go get a slice. Or a pie, if that's how you roll. What you'll find on this weeknight adventure is a dream mash-up where pizza and bread can meet — the dough is naturally leavened, giving it a bit of that SF sour note. Baker's even grinding his own wheat in-house, how DIY is that?! You're gonna get some texture with a capital T. The rotating weekly toppings are always vegetarian, and pack hella flavor (partially due to the secret swipe of garlic oil brushed on the dough). And at \$3 a slice, you can definitely afford to party with Josey's ardent carb following. Pizza available Mondays, 6-9pm. The Mill, 736 Divisadero, SF. (415) 345-1953, www.themillsf.com

BEST SMOKED PHISH

Haight Street's renowned Magnolia Pub and Brewery is famous among a certain sub-culture for a beer menu rife

CONTINUES ON PAGE 40 >>

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BEST OF THE BAY



LA DAMA AT LOLÓ, BEST COCKTAIL CRUISING (ABOVE); BEST CHICKEN PARM IN THE CITY: MERIGAN SUB SHOP MERIGAN PHOTO BY TABLEHOPPER; LOLÓ PHOTO BY WES ROWE

BEST SMOKED PHISH
CONT>>

with Phish and Grateful Dead references: Possum, Tweezer, Big Cypress, Bonnie Lee, Weekapaug Gruit, Delilah Jones, Mike's Brew (made with cactus, natch). When Magnolia owner Dave McLean opened a branch in the Dogpatch — complete with a fancy cocktail bar and smokin' BBQ restaurant — he left none of that cherry charm behind, continuing to pour out the Phish flavor on tap and through speaker. **Smokestack at Magnolia Dogpatch** (itself named after a Grateful Dead song, Smokestack Lightning) inhabits a breathtaking vintage space and serves up addictive cocktails like the whiskey-drenched Locke and Montague or brandy-licious Funston's Diamond. The barbecue side plates big portions of wagyu brisket, hot pastrami, pork back ribs, pulled chicken, and more (including veggie options). Together we are all alone, united on a spinning stone — but it all feels better with barbecue.

2505 Third St., SF. (415) 864-7468,
www.magnoliasmokestack.com

BEST CHICKEN PARM IN THE CITY, PERIOD

The next time you're on the way to the ballpark, or hungover, or sad, or just plain hangry, do yourself a favor and dive into the chicken parm at **Merigan Sub Shop** in SoMa. Chef-owner Liza Shaw comes from sub-centric Baltimore, and when you add such regional heritage with extensive restaurant experience (she rocked things at A16 for seven years) ... well, you can see where this is going. She had a custom roll made by Pinkie's to her specifications, and fries her juicy chicken thighs from Biagio Artisan Meats in rice bran oil so the breading isn't oily and gross. Her marinara pops with tomato brightness, a fine



companion to flavorful basil leaves, sharp provolone, and (here's where things can get crazy) add-on burrata for \$4 — though the creamy mozzarella from Di Stefano is also dreamy. 636 Second St., SF. (415) 536-2991,
www.merigansubshop.com

BEST OF THE BAY



THE HAPPY SPOON AT PABU, BEST NIGIRI PARADE

PHOTO BY KEVIN J. MCCULLOUGH

BEST NIGIRI PARADE

It's something every sushi-loving San Franciscan laments: there just aren't enough truly great places to get top quality, authentic nigiri in this town. Fortunately Michael Mina was able to convince sushi wizard Ken Tominaga of Hana in Rohnert Park to partner up and open **Pabu** in the Financial District. There are 22 seats at the sushi counter in the lofty space, and any first-time visitor will want to experience Tominaga's nigiri tasting menu there. His spread is composed of eight courses of fantastic, Edo-style nigiri served a pair at a time, under the careful attention of protégé Yoji Harada. You'll get a brilliant tour of the sushi case. Or just order what you want off the extensive menu (eight kinds of robatayaki, elegant shabu-shabu). Just be sure that the Happy Spoon — a soup spoon, yes, but artfully composed with uni, ikura, tobiko, ponzu, and crème fraîche — makes its way into your mouth. It's better than Prozac.

101 California, SF. (415) 668-7228, www.pabuizakaya.com

BEST-TASTING ACT TWO

When the Red Vic Movie House closed, there was much teeth-gnashing and garment-rending among movie fans. But — unlike other beloved SF institutions that have evaporated — its spirit lives on. Meet **Second Act Marketplace and Events**, the new incarnation of the Vic's classic building that's been reshaped

by the theater's co-founders and building owners Jack and Betsy Rix into a community space. There's a snug room in the back for performances (comedy, live music, and even the occasional screening), but the main attraction is upfront — five small businesses form a sustainably sourced, locavore-leaning food court that can't be beat. Show up early for your event of choice and explore your edible options. One scenario: get a "Juicetess Priest" from Raw's juice menu to wash down your Anda Piroshki. Or, indulge in something soft-serve and sweet from Eatwell Farm's Icebox. The show goes on!

1727 Haight, SF. (415) 668-3994, www.secondactsf.com

BEST DRAMATIC DRINKING

A bar in a theater is something of a luxury in these parts, which is a shame — while a lackluster production of *Peer Gynt* isn't necessarily improved by a pair of vodka goggles, they can't hurt. And bars add class. Any cooler of PBR is enough to convert a fusty basement black box into a veritable Performing Arts Pavilion. Discriminating theatergoers, however, take note of the exceptional touch — like that provided by **the bar at Z Space**. The performance space's spacious lobby, part of a repurposed canning factory, doesn't have to try hard to be convivial. Art-strewn (it doubles as a gallery), airy, and unpretentious, it sports a long raw-edge wooden communal table serviced by an island bar in the corner. With

CONTINUES ON PAGE 42 >>

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BEST SMOKIN' SAMMIES: MARIO'S BOHEMIAN CIGAR STORE CAFÉ (ABOVE); BEST CREAMY, SMOKY, FATTY, MEATY KOREAN PORK TACOS: CHUBBY NOODLE GUARDIAN PHOTO OF MARIO'S BY ERIN CONGER; CHUBBY NOODLE PHOTO BY TABLEHOPPER

BEST DRAMATIC DRINKING

CONT>>

Sofia Coppola pink champagne by the can or absinthe by the plastic cup, there's a pairing for almost any form of contemporary drama you're liable to run into. You can also get a PBR.

450 Florida, SF. (415) 626-0453, www.zspace.org

BEST BURGER IN THE FAM

Walk in the front door of **Uncle Boy's** and you'll be greeted with a hearty "sup" and a head nod from the expert burger-flipper manning the grill. In a few minutes, said spatula master will have you biting down on the juicy Unhorsed Cowboy (if you go the bacon burger route) or perhaps a splashy Pool Boy (if you're feeling brave enough to take on its spicy jalapeno poppers). While you chew, you and the staff will half-watch the 49ers game in a meaty kind of camaraderie. It feels familiar here, as if you had popped in to hang with that sports-obsessed uncle of yours with serious grill skills.

245 Balboa, SF. (415) 742-4468

BEST FRANKENFOOD

Screw Monsanto. Say no to being forced ungodly amalgamations of who-knows-what. Take the power back and sink your teeth into the heavenly **Frankaroni at 4505 Meats & BBQ**. This is a next-level comfort-food combination, guaranteed to make the noob at your communal outdoor table stare, point, and ask "What is that?" before lumbering up to the counter to order his or her own deep-fried square of deli-

ciousness. Within that square's crispy coating: macaroni and cheese, dotted with chunks of a 4505 Meat hot dog. Let us reiterate: *Frankaroni is deep-fried mac and cheese with hot dog in it.* It's listed on the menu as a side order, and yeah, 4505's main course barbecue is bangin', but you could make a sinfully delicious meal out of a Frankaroni or two. You could, and you should.

705 Divisadero, SF. (415) 231-6993, www.4505meats.com/4505-burgers-bbq

BEST FRO-YO THAT STEALS THE SHOW

This town has its share of frozen yogurt joints. **Loving Cup**, howev-

However! With the addition of a rather extensive list of mix-ins (blueberries, Nutella, gummy bears) and a whirl of Loving Cup's Willy Wonka-ish mixing machine, a fully-formed dessert emerges. Pro-tip: If you're too overwhelmed by all the choices, leave the flavor-swirling to the experts and order off the ironically named "Secret Menu," which hangs in full view.

2356 Polk, SF. (415) 440-6900; 535 Octavia, SF. (415) 701-0091, www.lovingcupsf.com

BEST HEARTY HOF BRAU HELLO

Walk past the blue-and-gold "Welcome stranger" sign outside



er, with locations in Russian Hill and Hayes Valley, sets itself apart by diversifying its creamy dessert options: No ice cream here, but can we interest you in some rice pudding? (With flavors like cinnamon rum raisin and bittersweet chocolate, the answer is always, "hell yeah.") But the star of the show is, of course, the fro-yo, which is only offered in two flavors — chocolate or vanilla.

Tommy's Joynt and glide inside. You'll feel six-plus decades of San Francisco nostalgia wash over you, and be happily buffeted by the agonizingly delicious smells of stewing, roasting meat. A traditional hof brau cafeteria, Tommy's makes it tough to decide between delectable treats warming under glowing red lamps. Will you choose glistening roast beef, sauce-soaked turkey, or thick,

BEST OF THE BAY



BEST TURKISH SPREAD: BRUNCH AT PERA (ABOVE); CHARCUTERIE AT LA NEBBIA, BEST JAMÓN JAM
PERA PHOTO BY TABLEHOPPER; LA NEBBIA PHOTO BY DESOGOS.COM

steaming chili? Whatever your protein, don't miss the wooden barrel filled to the top with free pickles. It's like the restaurant's way of putting a big, meaty paw around your shoulder and congratulating you on your choice of establishments. "Welcome stranger," it says, to both old San Franciscans and new.
1101 Geary, SF. (415) 775-4216,
www.tommysjoynt.com

BEST SMOKIN' SAMMIES

There is beauty in the North Beach stroll. Saunter down Grant Avenue, take in the sun and browse the shops, try to pretend for a heartbeat that you're in old

meatball, and heaping pastrami sandwiches — devoured with frothy cappuccinos or short glasses of chianti — have drawn back many a soul since the joint was founded by Mario and Liliana Crismani. You will want to gorge on them all. Buon appetito!
566 Columbus, SF. (415) 362-0536

BEST CREAMY, SMOKY, FATTY, MEATY KOREAN PORK TACOS

We have made our way through countless carnitas and al pastor tacos at the taco truck, and next-leveled it with buche and lengua and sesos. And while we don't have Roy Choi's Kogi Truck from LA slinging his short rib

\$9). Don't skip the garlic noodles while you're in there, either.
2205 Lombard, SF. (415) 655-3335,
www.chubbynoodle.com

BEST PLYWOOD PINTS

The Ave Bar will teach you something right away: You don't remember what a real dive looks like. Go to the Mission for expensive, kitsch decor, overpriced drinks, and way too many 20-somethings marveling at their new San Francisco surroundings. In contrast, Ingleside's The Ave Bar is lucky its walls are still standing (they're made of plywood.) It has no pool table, and certainly no velvet paintings of nude women (side-eye, Casanova). The place may be low on frills, but it's high on heart — plus it boasts a wide selection of delicious and local craft beer, from San Francisco to Santa Cruz. And we can't forget the clientele. Scoot up on a bar stool and hang with local firefighters and Ingleside old timers, all kvetching over the latest Niners gossip.

1607 Ocean, SF. (415) 587-6645,
www.theavebar.com

BEST JAMÓN JAM

We're not talking Oscar Meyer, people. We're talking real ham, as in jamón! And heavenly salumi flights. And prosciutti with 18 or 24 months of age on them. Yeah, that's the stuff. Sit at the popular counter of La Nebbia, the casual and friendly enoteca offshoot of La Ciccina in Noe Valley, and you can start your ham education with your choice of 12 different kinds of cured meats. Figure

CONTINUES ON PAGE 44 >>



Napoli (just ignore the sounds of the Muni buses). On such a happy meander, you would do well to end up at the ornate Mario's Bohemian Cigar Store Café, a little spot blessed with a perfect view of Washington Square Park and the grand Saints Peter and Paul Church. Sure, the vest-wearing bartender looks a bit hipster-twee, but the renowned, beyond-excellent breaded eggplant, hearty

tacos here in SF, we do have the Korean pork tacos at Chubby Noodle in the Marina, and that's something to be stoked about. The pork is marinated and charred just-so, tucked in a housemade flour tortilla that is blistered and golden, and topped with yogurt-chile sauce. It's creamy, smoky, fatty, and meaty, and you'll want to double down on your order after you finish the first round (two for

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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST JAMÓN JAM

CONT>>

out if you like it sweeter or saltier, San Daniele or Proscutto di Parma, jamón Serrano or Ibérico, and the staff will come up with some incredible wine (and beer) pairings for you. If co-owner Massimiliano Conti is there, you're in for a pairing treat — and you'll probably need to take a cab home. You'll be back for the lasagna soon enough.

1781 Church, SF. (415) 874-9924, www.lanebbia.com

BEST TURKISH SPREAD

It's time to give the French toast a break and head up to Potrero Hill for a harem-style (their words!) brunch at **Pera**. For \$16 a head (minimum two people), you can nosh on a classic Turkish breakfast of sucuklu yumurta (seasoned Turkish beef sausage), house-made village bread, Greek yogurt, cucumber and tomato salad, hummus, olives, jams, honey, fresh fruit, and simit (the sesame bread you see being sold everywhere at stands in Istanbul). Your homey table will be covered in little dishes, a feast for the eyes (and belly).



BEST HOT DOG-BURRITO LOVE CHILD: EL FRIJOLAZO AT LOS SHUCOS

PHOTO BY TABLEHOPPER

Be sure to add on the shakshuka for the full eggy experience, and of course some Turkish coffee.

Served Sat-Sun, 10am-3pm. 1457 18th St., SF. (415) 796-3812, www.perasf.com

BEST HOT DOG-BURRITO LOVE CHILD

Any heavy drinkin' San Franciscan knows the many

charms possessed by a bacon-wrapped hot dog or a burrito from El Farolito at 2:30am. The real test of his or her drunk food expertise is knowledge of **El Frijolazo at Los Shucos**. The Guatemalan-run Latin hot dog shop offers it as a beautiful, neighborhood-perfect hybrid: a bacon-wrapped dog tucked into a lightly golden fluffy roll that is

slathered with black beans, loaded with avocado, Los Shucos' Maya mayo sauce, and queso fresco. All for just \$6.95! Yes, it is open until 2:30am on the weekend. When the bar announces last call, Los Shucos owner Sofia Keck will be there to help.

3224½ 22nd St., SF. (415) 366-3868, www.losshucos.com

BEST FRESH COFFEE BREATH

There are iced coffees, and then there's the **mint mojito at Philz Coffee**. You better like fresh mint if you're going to order this thing, because you're going to have a sprig of it tickling your nose as you drink the dreamy concoction of iced coffee and cream and mint, all muddled and fabulous. Order it the way Philz suggests: creamy and sweet. It's frothy and refreshing, like breaking into a caffeinated and cold York Peppermint Pattie.

Various Bay Area locations, www.philzcoffee.com

BEST SHAMELESS SNACK

If there's one dish on chef David Bazirgan's menu that really lives up to his restaurant's provocative name, it's the damn **chicken wings**

at **Dirty Habit** — you'll be jonesing for them more than you'd care to admit. They're sticky and crunchy and juicy and loaded with flavor, mostly borrowing from the Asian pantry (fish sauce, soy, Korean rice vinegar, ginger) but smattered with some Mexi-Cali touches of pickled jalapeños and cilantro. There's a lot of intense cheffy action that goes into making these bad boys and it shows — the end result is mad deliciousness, and nothing to be ashamed of. 12 Fourth St., SF. (415) 348-1555, www.dirtyhabitsf.com

BEST FREEZER PIZZA HACK

You never know when the NEED FOR PIZZA will strike, so you might as well be prepared with the good stuff. Bernal pizza genius Jeff Krupman has managed to create quite the hopping business, and is now selling the superlative pies from his ardently admired business **Pizzahacker via Luke's Local**, a weekly food and meal delivery service. You can get a prebaked Margherita for just \$11, which warms up like a crispy dream in your oven in five minutes. You should probably get the Meat Pie too, it's just \$12. And

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-Yael Chanoff, SF Bay Guardian

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BEST MOTHER OF ALL DIM SUM: MAMA JI'S

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY ERIN CONGER

both come with housemade mozz. Pizza pizza! Mangia mangia! (415) 643-4510, www.lukeslocal.com

BEST SPICE-KICKED RIBS

Anyone who adores ribs and loves 'em extra-spicy needs to put the **Kua Kling ribs at Kin Khao** on the bucket list. Owner Pim Techamuanvivit and chef Michael Gaines have managed to layer so much flavor into these ribs, it's like your taste buds get hit with a defibrillator. Here's how they do it: the pork ribs are steamed in fish sauce, flash-fried, and tossed around (which is what their name means) in a wok with a fresh curry paste with turmeric, chili, white pepper, and galangal, and zippy kaffir lime (you'll taste it!). The meaty texture is super-satisfying, with the spices tingling your lips and nose as you munch 'em with your hands. And the fact you can get these beauties until 1am is a fantastic late-night miracle.

55 Cyril Magnin, SF. (415) 362-7456, www.kinkhao.com

BEST HOLY, HOLEY BACON TREAT

Shout-out to baker Kathleen DeManti for bringing us the seriously saintly **A Spoonful of Sugar bacon brittle doughnut**. DeManti uses brioche dough and lets it rise twice for maximum flavor and texture, topping that bad boy with teeny-tiny pieces of caramelized bacon (so it doesn't have a greasy texture). It's a breakfast item so blessed, it will make you speak in tongues, with bacon and doughnut-y goodness all in one. Make the pilgrimage to Marla Bakery Kitchen Communal where

the treats are available for worship four days a week — but don't sleep in too much because the supply has usually run dry by noon-ish.

Available Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30am, Saturdays and Sundays at 9am. Marla Bakery Kitchen Communal, 613 York, SF. (415) 824-2253, www.aspoonfulofsugarcakes.com

BEST MOTHER OF ALL DIM SUM

After a long run of spectacular mediocrity, the Castro has been rising up on foodies' radar with some nicely inventive cuisine in non-tacky theme atmospheres. The attention's not all falling on upscale joints, either. **Mama Ji's** has been earning raves from the frugal and the foodinista alike, not just for finally bringing a solid, generous menu of Szechuan delights to the hood (nicely balancing out Brandy Ho's Hunan offerings down the street) but also showering Castroites with a bounty of dim sum offerings — starting at 9:30am, when steaming pork buns are most-needed for those who went out drinking the night before. Chicken, pork, and shrimp shumai, pan-fried turnip pudding, yummy potstickers, and a stunning shrimp-stuffed eggplant will have you leaving pretty stuffed yourself. On top of it all, Mama Ji (aka Lily, who runs the place with husband Marv) is a delightful, motherly presence in the dining room, encouraging all to eat more, more, more.

4416 18th St, SF. (415) 626-4416, www.mamajissf.com

BEST BAR SNACKS BY VOLUME

Sitting at this bar in the Mission

CONTINUES ON PAGE 46 >>

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BEST BAR SNACKS BY VOLUME

CONT>>

you'll find plenty of cocktails to keep you coming back (I see you, Mumbai Mule and Casino Perfecto.) But it's the menu of bar food that is going to make you want to stay as long as possible. And much, much love is due the genius who birthed the falafel-merguez dog on a stick at new, much-raved-about bar **ABV** (as in alcohol by volume). No need to go unilateral on that menu, either. Chef Kevin Cimino makes a sick kimchee fritter, collard green dolmas with dirty rice, mapo sloppy Joes, and the kicker: a pimento cheeseburger on a sweet potato bun. Plus, nothing costs more than \$9, whut?

3174 16th St. SF. (415) 400-4748,
www.abvsf.com

BEST CARNIVAL OF CHARCUTERIE

A lot of restaurants are fired up on curing their own meats, but right now it looks like the king of SF salumi platters is chef Salvatore Cracco of **Trou Normand**. Don't miss his textbook-perfect coppa, silky mortadella, and fra-



BEST COMPETITION WITH NEW YORK: MARLA BAKERY BAGEL

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARLA BAKERY

grant finocchiona, plus all kinds of salami — some classic, some new-fangled. And then there's a whole charcuterie section, from terrines to three different kinds of pâté. Spring for the chef's charcuterie plate (\$19/\$38) for a full extravaganza. You'll have plenty of fantastic wine or spirit pairing

suggestions to go with your platter o' meats.

140 New Montgomery, SF. (415) 975-0876,
www.trounormandsf.com

BEST COMPETITION WITH NEW YORK

Baker extraordinaire Amy Brown has been making her own San Francisco-style bagel for some time, starting at Citizen Cake, then Nopa, and now at her own place, which she recently opened with her husband, Marla Bakery. With her now-legendary **Marla Bakery bagel**, she's fine-tuned her flour mix, and uses both yeast and a natural starter to get a rise. And yes, she boils them (with malt powder and salt) and bakes them to a beautiful golden hue. Desperate West Coasters can get salted, sesame, poppy, or seeded (sunflower, millet, flax, pepita, sesame) varieties, and upgrade to a plate with herbed farmer's cheese and housemade pickles, or get the (new!) Sunday brunch plate that includes smoked fish.

3619 Balboa, SF. (415) 824-2253,
www.marlabakery.com

BEST ORIGAMI ROLLS

Arguably the best spot for a dinner date in San Francisco, **AMASIA Hide's Sushi Bar** near Duboce Park offers delectably inventive sushi rolls, rainy day sake specials — and origami papers with instructions at every table. In other words, compelling food, good prices, and if the date's not going well, why then you can get lost in the folds of a tiny paper masterpiece. On select evenings, a musician will emerge to play the koto (an imposing, many-stringed

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BEST OF THE BAY



BEST SPICE-KICKED RIBS: KUA KLING RIBS AT KIN KHAO (LEFT); BEST FRESH COFFEE BREATH: MINT MOJITO AT PHILZ COFFEE KIN KHAO PHOTO BY TABLEHOPPER; PHILZ PHOTO BY BROOKE GINNARD

zither whose enchanting notes float among the dish-laden tables in the center of the cozy eatery. Additional pro tip: if you BYOH (Bring Your Own Hashi, a.k.a. nondisposable chopsticks), your eco-consciousness will be rewarded with a free order of edamame. 149 Noe, SF. (415) 861-7000, www.amasiasushi.com

BEST ENCOUNTERS OF THE VEGGIE KIND

This vegetarian, vegan-friendly, and gluten-free-friendly restaurant and wine bar will have you singing the praises of creative cooking, and (if you're a carnivore) wondering why you didn't miss your meat fix. Using ingredients from sustainable, local, organic, and artisanal producers and farmers whenever possible, **Encuentro** offers up such original delights as pizza crackers with cashew cheese, and marinated mushroom crostini with pecan pate and housemade fig chutney. Hit a high note with these clever combinations when you dive into the eatery's delicious selection of wines and beer.. You'll leave happy, full, and inspired to get more creative in the kitchen. (Here's proof: We ran home and immediately found a recipe for macadamia nut cheese.) 550 Second St., Oakl. (510) 832-9463, www.encuentrooakland.com

BEST REASONS TO SQUEAL

We don't know why they're so cheap, and we're not asking questions. After careful research, we can definitively say that \$15 Lagunitas IPA pitchers at **Telegraph** (formerly Mama Buzz) in Oakland are a few bucks less than those

at the many other beer gardens that have sprung up around San Francisco and the East Bay in recent years. Again, no questions — what else do you need to know? Let's see ... snacks. Here's some tips, because drinking all that good beer will surely make you hungry: may we recommend the porchetta sandwich (mmm, pork belly), or if you're really famished, get the Squeal Burger, with that slab of porchetta on top of a beef patty. Cheers.

2318 Telegraph, Oakl.
www.telegraphoakland.com

BEST BANGIN' XIAO LONG BAO

There's going to be a wait, and you'll probably be in the windy, foggy Sunset night air for a while. But we promise it will all seem worth it once you get a table at **Dumpling Kitchen**, dive into your first steamer basket of thin-skinned xiao long bao, and inhale that first pork dumpling in chile oil. There is also a fantastically thin and golden green onion pancake on the menu, and crispy-bottomed potstickers, and pillowy sticky rice rolls ... and you should probably get some greens too, for health. The place is no-frills and cheap as hell — and remember not to head out there with dumplings on your mind on a Wednesday, because that's when the kitchen's closed.

1935 Taraval, SF. (415) 682-8938

BEST BRICK-AND-MORTAR POP-UP

The pop-up food scene has reached a saturation point in San Francisco: In fact, we've hit a Darwinian phase, where longtime

pop-up survivors are climbing onto land, as it were, and into their own brick-and-mortar locations. **Rice Paper Scissors** settled down this year in a particularly fortuitous place. Valerie Luu and Katie Kwan, the masterminds behind this damn good and none-too-precious Vietnamese street food spot, deserve a nod not just for scoring a permanent daytime space, but for a dash of cheeky humor as well: Rice Paper Scissors now serves lunch Monday through Friday at, well, Brick and Mortar Music Hall, Luscious spring rolls, kicky bahn mi, all kinds of hearty pho and rice bowls await those who pop in to the Mission spot. Luu and Kwan are still doing wandering pop-ups, but we're glad to have 'em on solid ground.

Open Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm.
Brick and Mortar Music Hall,
1710 Mission, SF. (415) 878-6657,
www.ricepaperscissors.com

BEST FRY-STUFFED CALIFORNIA WONDER

We can all agree that the Golden State has the best burritos in the world. The debate between proponents of San Francisco burritos and their SoCal-style equivalent, however, is tricky (If you really want to get into it, the main difference is meat to rice ratio — but we'll save that in-depth analysis for another time.) Perhaps what's really important is that we all have the right to choose. If so, claps for the **California Burrito at Los Coyotes**, which is endowed with an element so plentiful in LA and San Diego, but frustratingly rare in the Bay

CONTINUES ON PAGE 48 >>

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BEST FRY-STUFFED CALIFORNIA WONDER CONT>>

Area. That would be the presence of freshly made french fries, mingling satisfyingly with the steak, cheese, avocado, and sour cream enclosed within its folds. Taqueria competition around 16th Street and Mission is famously stiff, but for SoCal transplants, or starch addicts who have seen the (french fry-scented) light, there's no question of burrito brand allegiance.

The fry stops here.
3036 16th St., SF. (415) 861-3708,
www.taquerialoscoyotes.com

BEST (HIC) RECYCLING (HIC) PROGRAM

"Drink your wine-> rinse your bottle-> refill at Tank18 -> repeat!" Could anything be easier, or drinkier? **Tank18** in SoMa is a winery-cum-events space that makes most of its scratch hosting company parties within its handsome walls. But founders Patrick MacCartee and Cheryl

Chin also cask up some lovely, light-hearted ("wine should be fun!" is the motto) Tempranillo, Syrah, Pinot Noir, Merlot, and much more, with seasonal varietals sourced from all over Wine Country. You drink wine. Tank18 makes wine. Sign up for Tank18's mailing list to find out which day of the month you can bring your bottle in for a refill, to complete the tipsy circle of life. They'll cork that sucker right up. Refills range from \$7.99 (750 ml) to \$36 (bulk gallons). Don't have a bottle? They'll provide one for two bucks. Please, someone tell Recology about this.

1345 Howard, SF. (415) 799-7161,
www.tank18.com/byob

BEST SANDWICHES STANDING BY

San Franciscans have never been afraid to wait in line for the right sandwich, and FiDi spot **Sentinel** — peep the full menu in all its Helvetica-typed glory at www.thesentinelssf.com; keep abreast of what's going on du jour on Twitter @sentinelsspecial — is no exception. The teeny corner spot boasts hot (cult fave: corned beef) and cold (cult obsession: "Devised Egg," egg salad with some chili-paste extra action). There's vegetarian (try the "BALT:" basil, avocado, lettuce, tomato, and goat cheese) and even dessert picks (recent selections: almond cake with peaches, pound cake with blueberries, vanilla flan). Just don't call 'em "sandos," please. Eats this tasty deserve being called by their full and proper name.

37 New Montgomery, SF. (415) 284-9960,
www.thesentinelssf.com

BEST DESSERT MONARCH

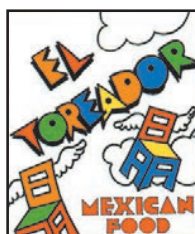
We will never be royals, but one walks among us: **King Kobbler**, who reigns over the Divisadero corridor, Lower Haight, the Church and Market intersection, and occasionally Hayes Valley and the Mission with his delicious containers of fruit cobbler. (Try the peach; it's five bucks well-spent.) The mobile King, a San Francisco native (real name PJ Norris; harmonica-playing bluesman handle Big Bones), wears a crown, cape, and giant smile. He peddles his tempting wares from a Cushman cart — currently in need of repairs: donate at gofundme.com/fixing-kobblermobile. He's also reclaimed the letter "K" back from the Kardashians of the world, coining terms like "Kobblertons" and "Kobblertropians" (to describe his loyal customers) and "The Kobblerdome" (his kingdom). Follow him on Twitter to find out his location so you can, as he'd say, "gitwitdaking."

www.twitter.com/norris_pj **SFBG**

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



BEST OF THE BAY



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EDITORS' PICKS



BEST HOLY ROLLING: CHURCH OF 8 WHEELS

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

BEST HOLY ROLLING

Welcome to the **Church of 8 Wheels**, where you can take an eight-wheeled journey through a rollerskating wonderland. No matter if it's been a long time since couples skate at your neighborhood rink, you're bound to find helping hands at this roller rink that occupies the huge former Sacred Heart Parish at the corner of Fillmore and Fell streets. But those too shy to rely on the kindness of strangers can attend one of the weekly Saturday afternoon lessons, after which you'll be ready to wheel into LGBT night (Tuesday nights), roller disco (Wednesdays), or the session reserved for the beats of guest DJs (Thursdays). Burner babes will want to check out the BM-themed Saturday night skates, but the playa vibes are strong all week: Church founder David "Godfather of Skate" Miles is also the force behind Burning Man theme camp Black Rock Roller Disco.

554 Fillmore, SF. www.churchof8wheels.com

BEST INDIE MAYHEM

We're not entirely sure when she sleeps, but however Sarah Sexton of **Oaktown Indie Mayhem** manages to do all that she does — well, we

just hope she keeps doing it. OIM acts as the booker for downtown Oakland's Awaken Cafe, where we've seen some of our favorite folk/indie acts on the cheap over the past year. The entertainment booking, promotions, and production company also seems to have its hands in just about everything else cool and music-related on that side of the bay, like Mayhem Fest, a song and video contest exclusively for bands from Oakland in which the winner gets recording time at Fantasy Studios. And the Oaktown Indie website? It's awash in basically everything you need to see and hear to stay current. As one OIM slogan goes: Get on it! www.oaktownindiemayhem.com

BEST CURBSIDE CELLOS

It is a bustling Friday night on Castro between Market and 18th streets. Improbably, conversations cease, replaced by the sound of live string instruments plucking out a rendition of Muse's "Knights of Cydonia." This nocturnal interruption of everyday urban life was created by the **Cello Street Quartet**, which posts up in front of Cliff's Variety on random nights throughout the week, attended by gawking groups

of rapt pedestrians. Dedicated to introducing classical and pop audiences to different canons, the group performs traditional and baroque cello tunes alongside more modern standards like Ben E. King's "Stand By Me." As each song ends, the temporary crowd disperses, resuming conversations and routes, but the spell remains. As does a temporarily more magic, melodious San Francisco.

Cliff's Variety, 479 Castro, SF.
www.cellostreetquartet.com

BEST DIY-NOT?

Crafting — formerly the domain of earnest scrapbookers and camp counselors versed in the ancient art of lanyard-braiding — got a huge boost of allure in the Internet Age, thanks to Etsy, Maker Faire, and Pinterest. Kids these days wanna make stuff, so let them make stuff! The San Francisco Museum of Craft and Design's **MakeArt** events offer programs for children, low-cost affairs offering tutelage in the creation of puppets, bookmarks, paper flowers, and more, usually from recycled or found materials. There are also family-focused programs (DIY cardboard ukeles!),

CONTINUES ON PAGE 54 >>

"Detroit Frank DuMont, he's a good person, he's good with that guitar, he's played behind a whole lot of good people, he's played behind me. Detroit Frank is nothin' but the best and later for the rest!" John Lee Hooker

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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST DIY-NOT?

CONT>>

and, best of all, creative activities for grown-ups only. Along with a series taught by Etsy artists (an upcoming event teaches you how to construct a gilded geode pendant — hello, perfect holiday gift), there have been how-tos on terrarium-making, hand-lettering, and more. Craft enthusiasts will also want to check out the ongoing artists' lecture series. Various Bay Area locations. www.sfmcd.org

BEST ARTS INTERCESSION

When a group of experienced Bay Area arts and cultural leaders took over troubled CELLspace almost two years ago to create **InnerMission**, we were happy to see this venerable performance, party, and community space given a new lease on life. It started out by hosting some cool new events and aiming for the highest business standards (see "CELLspace becomes InnerMission," 10/23/12). After all, CELLspace has been an important local independent arts institution for almost 20 years. Sadly, that hasn't stopped the building owner from deciding to turn the entire block into condos, so it has a date with the wrecking ball next summer, business



BEST CURBSIDE CELLOS: CELLO STREET QUARTET

PHOTO BY ADAM WARD AND VALENTINA SADIUL

acumen and creative programming be damned. Check it out while you can, especially the Vau de Vire's Society's "Soiled Dove" immersive dinner theater performance in December. 2050 Bryant, SF. (415) 203-2674, www.innermissionevents.com

BEST TEMPLE OF TUNES

We don't know for sure how many former Masonic Temples with iconic marble war memorials depicting the battle between good and evil now host Hall and Oates, Pixies, and Café Tacuba shows for 3,300 people. But

we're guessing: not many. **The Masonic** (formerly known as the California Memorial Masonic Temple) reopened in September with revamped seating, a state-of-the-art sound system, new lighting, concessions, and a schmancy VIP room with a knockout view of

the city to complement that historic interior artwork. Let's just say, the building's seen quite a few changes over its 56-year history. After negotiating with noise-averse neighbors for the last half a decade, Live Nation will now be booking some 54 shows a year at the refurbished venue — a lineup full of heavy hitters, at that. Keep it up, Masonic, and we'll try to keep it down for the Nob Hill sleepyheads.

1111 California, SF. (415) 776-7457, www.sfmasonic.com

BEST ELIZABETHAN UPDATE

"We believe the arts can change perceptions." That's core belief No. 1 for the outstanding **African American Shakespeare Company**, which is celebrating its 20th year of translating classical (and contemporary) theater into "experiences which celebrate our pride, diversity and integrity." Founded by dynamic director Sherri Young, the collective has produced dozens of thought- and emotion-provoking classical works, putting them in a new cultural context, and introducing new audiences to the pageantry, drama, and delight of Shakespeare and others. School workshops, outreach programs, student matinees are all on the pro-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 56 >>



ARTWORK: PAOLO DE FRANCESCO (MOLTI MEDIA.IT) • PH: JARNO IOTTI

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
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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST ELIZABETHAN UPDATE

CONT>>

gram. As are exciting new productions, like world premiere *Xtigone*, a play on Sophocles' *Antigone* by Nambi E. Kelley, which will debut next February. Performing most of its production in the Buriel Clay Theatre, part of the African American Art and Culture Complex, the AASC brings some much-needed color to the Bard's pale cheeks. www.african-americanshakes.org

BEST BLOND AMBITION

Who is **D'Arcy Drollinger**? This dazzling drag performer's played professional man-eater Samantha Jones (in *Sex and the City Live!*), frazzled starlet Lindsay Lohan (in Drollinger's hilarious pop-culture saga *Project: Lohan*), and a peroxided exotic dancer (in campy, long-running smash *Shit & Champagne*), among memorable (and memorably coiffed) roles in other works — many of which the performer played a central role in creating, as with *Lohan* and *Champagne*.

She's also found the time to write the book and lyrics for this summer's *Mr. Irresistible*, a sci-fi musical comedy self-described as "Terminator meets Ugly Betty." Oh! And she invented headband-and-legwarmer-adorned SexiTude™, a "body-positive, age-positive, sex-positive dance experience," which she teaches in classes at ODC, Dance Mission, and elsewhere. One thing's abundantly clear: D'Arcy has her own Sparkle Motion. www.darcydrollinger.com



BEST BLOND AMBITION: D'ARCY DROLLINGER

BEST LEAPS FROM THE SCREEN

What is "expanded cinema"? Expand your mind and find out at **Shapeshifters Cinema**, an ongoing free series held monthly at Oakland's Temescal Art Center. Experimental artists from the worlds of film and

video create works aided by equally open-minded musicians and sound artists, making every Shapeshifters event a you-can't-see/hear-this-anywhere-else situation, with simultaneous projections, live sound effects, PowerPoint manipulations, costumes,



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power tools, psychedelic light shows, and other magic tricks. With close ties to Artists' Television Access and the San Francisco Cinematheque, Shapeshifters — which is curated by Kathleen Quillian and Gilbert Guerrero — has hosted both traveling and local artists (Scott Stark, Kerry Laitala, Paul Clipson), and is making sure the definition of “cinema” remains fluid and thrilling.

Second Sundays, 8-9pm, free.
Temescal Art Center, 511 48th St., Oakl.
www.shapeshifterscinema.com

BEST JAZZ-AGE THROWBACK

Soooo, you missed *The Speakeasy*, even after its long run and critical raves? Here's hoping that Boxcar Theatre brings back the interactive production Guardian critic Robert Avila dubbed “one of the more involved and impressively orchestrated theatrical experiences on any Bay Area stage.” Nick A. Olivero and Peter Ruocco's immersive theatrical extravaganza guided participants (you could call them audience members, though their role was hardly a



ARTIST ANDY PULS AT SHAPESHIFTERS CINEMA, BEST LEAPS FROM THE SCREEN

passive one) into a Prohibition-era gambling den — really the disguised black-box Boxcar Playhouse, but with cocktails and “gambling.” There, they were surrounded by ongoing dramas and micro-dramas and vignettes enacted by a period-perfect cast of Roaring Twenties characters: gangsters, jazz babies, World War I veterans, you name it. Since one's experience of the show depended on which way you happen to wander, no two visits to *The Speakeasy* were

CONTINUES ON PAGE 58 >>



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AT THE **de Young**
GOLDEN GATE PARK



Are you free Friday night? We are.

October 17 • 6–8:30 PM

What Tethers Us? Join Friday Nights at the de Young for a visual and performative love letter to the late Monica Maduro, former Board member of the Fine Arts Museums, that celebrates the creative spirit and the San Francisco artist community. With host Steven Ra\$pa, the evening will feature live performances by the Extra Action Marching Band, Sanaz Gangei, and the Vau de Vire Society, with music by DJ Justin Credible. Art installations and live performances dedicated to Maduro's memory will include works by Dana Albany, Rebecca Anders, Haideen Anderson, Paz de la Calzada, Karen Cusolito, Deidre DeFranceaux, Tucker Eason, Flash Hopkins, Kaytee Papusza, Michael Rauner, Jules Sears, Michael Sturtz, and Justin Young.

This show is organized by Deidre DeFranceaux.

Fees apply for permanent collection and special exhibition galleries, dining, and cocktails.

deyoungmuseum.org/fridays #FridayNightsDY

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Monica Maduro and La Confessa, image courtesy FAMSF

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1-2-3-4 GO!

BEST OF THE BAY

BEST JAZZ-AGE THROWBACK

CONT>>

ever alike. Which is why Boxcar should revive this show, daddy-o!
www.boxcartheatre.org

BEST NIGHT TO CHILL WITH YOUR (SMASH) BROS

Nerds, reclaim the night! It's now possible to spend your evening thumbing joysticks against the West Coast's best Super Smash Bros. and League of Legend players at **Showdown eSports' Tuesday game night**. The weekly event turns the video game experience into an IRL social one, and projects polygonal battles high on the soaring walls of the Folsom Street Foundry for all to see. Mario Kart, Rock Band, and even board games abound. If you're daring, and blessed with a powerful desire to see if Nintendo's Italian plumber can punch Hyrule's greatest warrior into oblivion, join the NorCal Smash Bros League's bracket competition. The best part of these evenings is the camaraderie — in-joke refrains like "up B! not side B! ARGH!" help build a common bond between competitors. Oh, and did we mention there's beer? Remember: chugging during Mario Kart constitutes the only acceptable time to drive drunk.

Tuesdays, 6pm-midnight. Folsom Street Foundry, 1425 Folsom, SF.
www.facebook.com/showdownesports

BEST WAY TO STAY HOME AND JOIN THE CIRCUS

Over 20 years ago, community activist Dorrie Huntington noticed that the old high school next door to her home was empty again after its brief stint as a homeless shelter. What good use could it be put to? At the suggestion of some Moscow Circus alumni, and with a whole lot of elbow grease, **Acrosports** was born. The building was transformed with mats and bars into an amazing circus school for Bay Area residents. Nowadays, each week more than 2,500 athletes of all ages (10 months old and up!) take breakdancing, capoeira, tumbling, and parkour classes in its repurposed rooms. The physical conditioning also teaches creativity and perseverance — and the showmanship and confidence you need to get by in the three-ring circus of life.

639 Frederick, SF. (415) 665-2276,
www.acrosports.org

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A gorgeous, retro-classy, but not-too-ostentatious setting. A Funktion One sound system that rat-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 60 >>

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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST DAMN DISCOTECH

CONT>>

bles your bones. 1,600 dazzling LED lights flashing along the walls. 3D video projections that don't scream "cheesy." Drinks that don't feel desperately splashed in a glass. And most important: dance music that doesn't seem piped in from the latest DJ-of-the-month who seems to have more hairstyle than talent. This is **Audio Discotech**, the fantastic new SoMa club that appeals to a wide variety of

beats-hungry clubbers by combining tasteful décor and expensive-seeming attention to detail (clean bathrooms! Classy banquettes!) with a killer instinct for actually *good* dance music (DJs from around the world who don't just press buttons and pump their fists!). All walks of nightlife converge here — especially during Sunday daytime parties, when the skylight floods the dance floor with good vibes. Now if only Audio could stay open all the time ...

316 11th St., SF. www.audiosf.com

BEST IG-BAY OOL-CAY IT-LAY EVENT-HAY

Transport yourself back to the sixth grade, or whenever it was that you discovered the finer linguistic points of Pig Latin. A quiz, to test your time travel: how do you say "beast" in that vaunted tongue? If you answered "East Bay," congratulations, you are still a child at heart and also, you know the adorable backstory behind the naming of **Beast Crawl**, Oakland's annual free summer literary festival. The Beast features more



WENDY MACNAUGHTON, THE ARTIST BEHIND *MEANWHILE IN SAN FRANCISCO*: BEST PERAMBULATIONS, ILLUSTRATED GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

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THE
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than 100 writers in a single night, their readings spread out across Oakland bars, galleries, restaurants, cafes, and storefronts. The suggested manner in which to traverse the Crawl borrows from Choose Your Own Adventure books: You must select your path through the many tantalizing events presented during each leg of the event, using colorful official maps as your guide.

beastcrawl.weebly.com

BEST PERAMBULATIONS, ILLUSTRATED

We've been enamored of artist-graphic journalist Wendy MacNaughton's breezy-yet-hyper-perceptive sketches, humanizing portraits, and urban tableaux for years now, but it was with this year's *Meanwhile In San Francisco* that the SF resident became something like our illustrator laureate. The book, the result of McNaughton's lunchtime strolls with her notebook in hand, captures the city through its characters — from bus drivers to Mission hipsters to the folks who pass their days at the public library — with telling observations and detours, like an explanation of the difference in scenery between Fifth and Sixth streets downtown. MacNaughton's star has since risen further with the publication of *Pen & Ink*, a whimsically illustrated collection of stories about tattoos and their owners, but it's *Meanwhile...* that should be required reading for tourists and recent transplants — much more so than any guidebook you'll find at Pier 39.

www.wendymacnaughton.com

BEST STREAMING DREAMS

It's not just any door — it's a **Fandor**, and behind its sleek front page at www.fandor.com you will find an

impressive selection of streaming narrative films, shorts, and documentaries from around the world, not to mention an online community of intelligent film fans. "All of our films are either fun, important, life-altering, or simply necessary," the company explains on its website, and it goes without saying Fandor's stash is superior to Netflix in many ways (So. Much. Herzog!) The addition of film-biz vet Ted Hope as CEO earlier this year signaled Fandor's commitment to its content-distribution arm, and it's since released films like Hal Hartley's *My America*. It also hosts David Hudson's meticulously curated blog Keyframe — a daily must-read, especially for armchair cineasts who dream of traveling to every international film festival.

www.fandor.com

BEST RED HOT TEASING

Head to Mission dive bar El Rio on Fridays at 7:30pm for some titillating, vanguard clothes-shedding: The highly acclaimed **Red Hots Burlesque** performance troupe is here every week like clockwork, harvesting hoots and hollers from a crowd that's committed to their curves. Founder and tassel babe Dottie Lux will have you know that the gang has been around longer than any other queer burly-Q posses in the country, which in case you're wondering, does indeed mean that Red Hots simply does it better than the rest. These ladies are everywhere, strutting their gorgeous variety of body types over dinner theater at the Supperclub, opening for bigtime bands, and even supporting the Gotham Girls Roller Derby league. Should the Red Hots inspire you to don pasties of your own, you're in luck: all ages and

CONTINUES ON PAGE 62 >>



<http://www.crazyhorse-sf.com>



Vicky Chase

October 16-18, 2014

Thursday 9:30pm, 11:30am

Friday 9:30pm, 11:30am, 1:30am

Saturday 9:30pm, 11:30am, 1:30am



Teagan Presley

October 23-25, 2014

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Friday 9:30pm, 12:30am

Saturday 9:30pm, 12:30am



Lexi Belle

Nov 13-15, 2014

Thursday 9:30pm - 11:30am

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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST RED HOT TEASING

CONT>>

genders are invited to classes at the group's School of Shimmy.
www.redhotsburlesque.com

BEST CONCEPTUAL PEEK

Although this little exhibition space that could has been operating in the display adjacent to Artists Television Access since 2007, this year's spate of exhibitions at **Right Window Gallery** has included some of the funniest and



most fearless examples of semi-public art in recent memory. For example: Mitche Manitou's "SUBMISSION: Giving in to Change," a photo essay of street signage altered through strategic cropping, or Cliff Hengst's marathon "Gotta get a message to you," for which the artist became a one-man protest poster painting factory. The collective brain trust behind this little exhibition space that could has provided a glass-enclosed running commentary on the changing character and economic realities of its

surroundings, in voices both goofily outré and conceptually whipsmart.
992 Valencia, SF. rightwindow.blogspot.com

BEST SILVER-TONGUED SHE-DEVILS (NOW IN PRINT)

Twenty years ago, a ladies-only performance poetry series was born, the brainchild of Michelle Tea and Sini Anderson, who were tired of competing with dude-bro, Bukowski wannabes for mic time. Dubbed "The Best Place to Hear Silver-Tongued
CONTINUES ON PAGE 64 >>

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2013

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(SF Bay Guardian)

**Best Variety
of Offerings**

(Nitey Awards)



2014

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500 Divisadero Street (at Fell)
madroneartbar.com



BEST OF THE BAY

BEST SILVER-TONGUED SHE-DEVILS (NOW IN PRINT)

CONT>>

She-Devils" by this very publication, the event eventually morphed into a touring roadshow of riotous proportions, including such literary notables as Eileen Myles, Mary Gaitskill, and Beth Lisick, as well as Tea herself. It's remained a byword of outsider, female-gendered spoken word ever since. But road-tripping is exhausting, and spoken word ephemeral, which

makes City Lights' **Sister Spit** imprint such a welcome addition to the lit-sphere. Now we can revel in the poetry of Ali Liebegott and the prose of Dia Felix — all releases are edited by Tea — in the comfort of home or our own personal roadshows.

www.citylights.com

BEST BILLBOARD PIRATE SALUTE

"Sell Your Dreams," screamed white text against an eye-searing spectrum of neons and pastels on Anthony Discenza's billboard-mounted mural

in the Mission. The message — which laughed in the face of tech boom-fueled corporate utopianism — was just one of the unsettling takeovers of publicly visible commercial space that Steven Wolf Fine Arts rented for the group exhibition "**What Keeps Mankind Alive.**" The sleeper art show of the summer spotlighted San Francisco's long history of billboard hacktivism and public culture jamming with decades worth of artists' work (Victor Moscoso and Billboard Liberation Front provided some of the older work

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BEST TWO-MINUTE BLASTS FROM THE NEO-FUTURE: SAN FRANCISCO NEO-FUTURISTS (ABOVE); FROM "WHAT KEEPS MANKIND ALIVE," BEST BILLBOARD PIRATE SALUTE

on view). It also underscored just how native advertising has become to our digitally mediated selves, by utilizing a platform (the billboard) that has become both commercially outmoded and art-historically loaded.

Steven Wolf Fine Arts, 2747 19th St., SF.
www.stevenwolffinearts.com

BEST TWO-MINUTE BLASTS FROM THE NEO-FUTURE

Bay Area, hold onto your shoe hats; the **San Francisco Neo-Futurists** have landed, and South of Market will never be the same. Formed in Chicago in 1988, the surrealist theater troupe infiltrated New York 10 years ago — and now it's San Francisco's turn to take in the Neo's raucous, ever-changing signature show *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind*. At every performance, a timer is set, and as the audience shouts out numbers in random order, the Neos race to beat the clock, performing 30 original plays in the allotted 60 minutes. On any given night there could be nudity or masks, balloons or jazz, pirouettes or pizza — or all of the above. After each performance a certain number of plays are swapped out, making each show refreshingly different. This is more than a fun night out, it's a rowdy tradition worth cultivating. Boxcar Playhouse, 505 Natoma, SF.
www.sfnofuturists.com

BEST HA-HA!

If there was ever a night to call a bar and ask for "Seymour Butts," Bart Simpson-style, it'd be every fourth Sunday at the Knockout during **1990s Simpsons Trivia Night**. Note the years: Questions pertain to the first decade of the epic Simpsons timeframe, which spans 25 seasons and counting, and you can live in happy denial that the 2007 feature film ever misfired into theaters. But, it means you've gotta get old-school with your binge-watching ... er, research ... if you want to dominate the scoreboard. Keywords: "Bobo." "Boo-urns." "Joey-Joe-Joe Shabbadoo."

The Knockout, 3223 Mission, SF.
(415) 550-6994, www.theknockoutsf.com;
www.facebook.com/SimpsonsTriviaSF

BEST SONIC SANCTUARY

There are a lot of great-sounding rooms in the Bay Area, but very few of them have the anything-goes spirit — not to mention architectur-



al weirdness and panache — of **The Lost Church**. Brett and Elizabeth Cline, who own and live behind the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 66 >>



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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST SONIC SANCTUARY CONT>>

postmodern, angular, yet surprisingly intimate David Ireland-designed music venue-theatrical performance space, decided to close it temporarily this year to make way for a more seating and a real kitchen, both of which can only enhance the experience of catching a show there by the likes of Jonathan Richman or Sonny Smith. The space is clean, expertly lit, with a classy, well-decorated bar

BEST DROP DOWNTOWN: OAKLAND DROPS BEATS



— and its Capp Street location only adds to its indie mystique. Oh, and the demonic, Rolling Stones-inspired annual Christmas show? You'll just have to see it to understand.

65 Capp, SF. www.thelostchurch.com

BEST DROP DOWNTOWN

Yes, lots of musicians are moving to Oakland. And while there are plenty of great venues in the East Bay, we were starting to get the distinct feeling earlier this year that the number of venues just couldn't quite keep

up with the influx of talent. Enter **Oakland Drops Beats**, a brand-new, family-friendly, totally free music crawl that takes place in art galleries and other non-conventional spaces all over downtown Oakland, with a focus on pairing up-and-coming musicians with more established bands. There have only been two incarnations of it thus far (the event has plans of becoming a quarterly happening) but we're looking forward to watching it grow apace with the arts renaissance

CONTINUES ON PAGE 68 >>



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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST DROP DOWNTOWN CONT>>

taking place in the Town.
www.oaklanddropsbeats.com

BEST GAMEBOY TUNESMITH

Jack-of-all-trades musician, artist, dramatic yo-yoist, and video game designer-wizard **Doctor Popular** is one of those people you'll inevitably run into if you're out and about in the Mission, which makes us wonder when he has the time to do all that

he does — which includes but is by no means limited to creating catchy, infectious music using old-school video game consoles, and editing his music videos on his phone. Is it weird? Sure, it's weird. It's also way better than it has any right to be: Just ask any of the folks who contributed to his Kickstarter, which raised \$11,000 to help produce an all 8-bit album.
www.docpop.org

BEST SUNDAY TWANGDAY

While two-thirds of the city is killing

time waiting in a two-hour brunch line just to Instagram their eggs Benedict (#SundayFunday!), those in the know hitch on their high-kickers and head to the cool yet still satisfying sanctuary of **Thee Parkside's Original Famous Twang Sundays**. It's all ages, always free, and sports a different food special from the kitchen every week. Putting the tang in your twang: different cowboy-boot-sportin' crooners on the stage (Smooth Hound Smith, Thirteen Button Trousers, Sour Mash Hug Band) ever so gently kick-



BEST DANCING IN THE DARK: LIGHTS DOWN LOW

ing your hangover to the curb.
Sundays, 2pm, free. 1600 17th St., SF.
(415) 252-1330, www.theeparkside.com

BEST UNDERGROUND VENUE, NOW REVEALED

Oh, **Viracocha**. We've loved you from the beginning — for your overflowing bins of records, your antique mannequins and birdcages, your shelves upon shelves of jewelry and soaps and albums made by local dreamers and artists of all kinds, and of course for your truly beautiful bathroom. Not to mention the basement listening room, which has had some of the best live sound in the city for the past five years, and played host to some of the most fun shows, parties, and readings we've ever been to. But due to zoning restrictions, the downstairs venue was limited in its outreach — until now. Owner Jonathan Siegel deserves a medal for jumping through the city's hoops to reconstruct the space and obtain a legitimate entertainment permit (an alcohol license is next). But he'd probably be happy with a nap instead.

998 Valencia, SF. (415) 374-7048,
www.viracochasf.com

BEST DANCING IN THE DARK

One of the fierce pleasures of local nightlife is watching little parties grow up into big parties — and then watching those big parties start to rule the world. **Lights Down Low** started several years as a stylish, ragtag affair in the Tenderloin when people were still using MySpace to find out about good dancing. Well, you can't keep a great party secret — especially one with a fanbase as devoted as this one. Soon the techno, house,

and electro headliners were getting more adventurous, more tricky, more famous, more insane. Giant smiley-faces and acid-trippy visuals splashed across the LDL scene. Hundreds of late-night party people flocked to hear what promoter Corey Sleazemore, soon joined by infamous party animal DJ Richie Panic, had up his sleeve. Add a recent roster of resident party DJs (MPHD, Dials), a residency at the huge Mezzanine club, and a Los Angeles franchise (which may or may not have been raided by anti-rave cops) — you'll want to keep your party finger on that dimmer switch, dear.

www.facebook.com/LightsDownLowCA

BEST UP AND OUT FOR ART

With so many gallery closures this past year, and commercial real estate only getting more cost prohibitive, artists and curators have had to get more creative about how to show work. Choosing one of the most common of public architectural structures as its starting point, curatorial collective **Stairwell's** has taken art outside of the proverbial white cube, staging installations and interventions with accompanying publications and tours (called "field trips" in Stairwell's speak) in diverse sites around the Bay Area. Whether they entail climbing underneath the inter-gallery staircase at YBCA or ascending the Metreon's escalators, the tours that Stairwell's runs are playful and thoughtfully insistent on reframing the structures around us as sites for aesthetic inquiry and reflection. Kudos to it for showing that space is not really an issue when there's vision to spare.

www.stairwells.org **SFBG**



LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBERING

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FILM SERIES







PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): THE FALL OF THE I-HOTEL, THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK, ALCATRAZ IS NOT AN ISLAND, HARDCORE HOME MOVIE, WE WERE HERE, TAKE THIS HAMMER, CHAN IS MISSING

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—Alix Christie in *The Economist*

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tickets at www.zspace.org

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—Katrina Manson, *Camden New Journal*



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BEST OF THE BAY

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BEST BERRY COOL BIKES: HUCKLEBERRY BIKES

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

BEST BERRY COOL BIKES

Shopping for a smooth new ride need not take place in an institutional silence. **Huckleberry Bicycles** knows this, and has stocked a juicy collection of '80s vinyl (including many, many soundtracks!) to soundtrack your perusal of its sleek and so-stylish Pinarello Marvel Ultegras, Giant Avail 2s, and Cannondale Bad Boy Commuters. Practically speaking, the store has all the well-crafted two-wheelers you need for any kind of riding, plus high-end accessories from Brooks, Chrome, and more. And if you happen to have a steed that needs TLC, you should wheel it by. Huckleberry's bike mechanics can handle simple fixes at their free repair kiosk at an old newsstand on Market and Seventh streets every weekday morning, and you can bring your bike to the shop itself for more involved patchwork. 1073 Market, SF. (415) 484-6575, www.huckleberrybicycles.com

BEST SCORCHED-TONGUE SHANGRI-LA

Friends, San Franciscans, wing lovers: If you like to take your meals awash

in a sea of flamin' hot, peppery, vinegary goodness, we are about to blow your mind (and taste buds). There is a store on Pier 39 that sells nothing but hot sauces and spicy condiments from around the world, and it is called **Hot Licks**. We're already drooling just mentioning the name, please give us a minute. OK. Started 17 years ago in San Diego, the store made its way up here a few years ago, to the delight of armchair chili-ologists. BBQ sauce, salsas, snacks, spices and rubs ... You'll find all that at Hot Licks, but the eyed-watering wonderland is famed for its incredible selection of hot sauces, starting with its eponymous own (available in green, Serrano, Serrano extra hot, "Suicide," and XXX varieties). Plus you can get other brands like: Sphincter Shrinker, Heavenly Heat Fear the Reaper, Island Treasure Jamaica Wildfire, Los Cholotes Chipotle, and Blind Betty's. Yeow! That's good.

Pier 38, suite J-16, SF. (415) 590-7277, www.hotlickssauces.com

BEST VINYL YACK-FEST

"Hitting the big time" for musicians may still conjure images of record

label boardrooms in New York and LA for a lot of people, but if you ever needed proof that the Bay Area is home to some of the coolest independent labels around, look no further than the **Bay Area Record Fair** — yes, the BARF. This schmooze-fest, which had its inaugural event in February of this year, has already doubled in size, with more than two dozen local labels coming out for the September event at Thee Parkside (organizers Father/Daughter Records and promoters Professional Fans went ahead and got a permit to take over the street outside the bar, given the burgeoning girth of the event). Live music, records for sale, a reminder of the Bay Area's audio cred, a chance to talk shop and buy direct with music movers and shakers — plus beer. What more could you ask of a Saturday?

www.bayarearecordfair.com

BEST CONFLICT-FREE BEDAZZLEMENT

For the high roller with a conscience, **D&H Sustainable Jewelers** sells a feel-good bonanza of con-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 74 >>

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BEST FLOWER GUY: GUY'S FLOWERS

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY BRITTANY M. POWELL

BEST CONFLICT-FREE BEDAZZLEMENT CONT>>

flict-free gemstones, diamonds, and other shiny treasures set in reclaimed metal and designed by local artists. And fret not, conscious shopping need not mean cookie-cutter goods. If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind bauble, the talented, friendly staff at D&H will guide you through a design process from sketch to finished product — it will even work up a 3D model if that strikes your fancy. Should your big purchase requires some liquid courage, head to the shop's mezzanine level and take a seat at Rose Cut Wine Bar, the only vino vendor inside a US jewelry store. The bar's a perfect fit at D&H, just like its swanky, sustainable gems.

2323 Market, SF. (415) 500-2550, www.dnhjewelers.com

BEST SHROOM STARTERS

Created in 2009 by a pair of UC Berkeley students inspired by the idea of turning waste into fresh foods, **Back to the Roots' Organic Mushroom Farm Kits** are locally produced \$20 boxed sets that allow you to grow and harvest organic

oyster mushrooms in your own home. It's simple — the kits come in milk carton-like containers that you cut up, feed with used coffee grounds, and harvest within 10 days. And if you're not a fungi fancier, founders of the Oakland-based online company Nikhil Arora and Alejandro Velez have a new project for you that follows their waste-for-food mission: self-cleaning fish tanks that nurture edible plants, 100 percent free of chemical fertilizers.

www.backtotheroots.com

BEST FLOWER GUY

Guy's Flowers is sure to brighten your day. Stationed on the corner of Noe and 15th streets almost every day, proprietor Guy Clark sells beautiful, vivaciously-hued blooms that are not only quite reasonably priced, but also verifiably long-lasting. His petals are perfect, but it's your interaction with Clark — who has been selling flowers in the changing neighborhood for 30-plus years and is well known for dressing in fetching monochromes — who will bring the roses to your cheeks. A neighborhood fixture (he was featured in the heartrending AIDS documentary *We Were Here*),

BEST OF THE BAY



BEST SCORCHED-TONGUE SHANGRI-LA: HOT LICKS (ABOVE); LINDSAY DAUNELL AND SHAWN HIGGINS OF D&H SUSTAINABLE JEWELERS, BEST CONFLICT-FREE BEDAZZLEMENT

he waters streetside plants, cleans the block, and greets all passersby with a smile. A grin from Guy turns a stressful day into a garden stroll, as will, of course, one of his well-appointed bouquets.
195 Noe, SF

BEST BAGS TO CARRY YOU AWAY

Fashionistas, are you ready to get your boho on with a tan bucket bag sporting a sassy tassel, or maybe a lime metallic tote is just the pop of color you need? Is your significant other really schlepping to meetings in a suit — and a backpack? Stop that. Pay a visit to handbag (and duffel bag and gym bag and briefcase) crafter **Basil Racuk**, who operates a stylish boutique and atelier in the Mission that effortlessly manages to balance a breezy California aesthetic with some serious craft. Racuk designs and makes each gorgeous bag by hand, and the buttery leathers will make you melt. In a world of mass manufacturing, it feels really good to pay a visit to the artisan side. Need more reasons to cop that weekend bag you're coveting? Not only are you worth it, but you'll have it forever — and few others will be rocking the same one.

3458 18th St., SF. (415) 255-7457, www.basilracuk.com



BEST SMART 'N' SPEEDY

Only a running store overseen by true-blue fans of the sport would try this stunt: spray-painting a shoe silver, hiding it someplace woody, and dropping hints to customers over social media about which local trail might be hiding this Wonka's Golden Ticket equivalent. And yeah, **A Runner's Mind** — known to its fans as ARM — is kind of a candy story for both pavement pounders and trail fiends alike. With a (newly expanded) Burlingame flagship and a (newly opened, as of this year) San Francisco location, A Runner's Mind carries all the

usuals (shoes, shorts, socks, weird food-like substances that can be slurped down with ease at mile 15), but it also fosters a sense of community, hosting fun runs as well as an "ARMacademy," a supportive program that train athletes of all abilities to crush their target races. Metallic sneakers optional.

3575 Sacramento, SF; 199 Howard, Burlingame, www.armyourfeet.com

CONTINUES ON PAGE 76 >>

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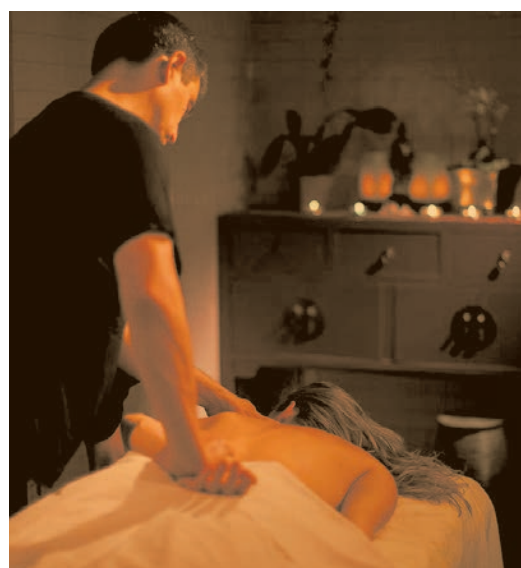
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NIKHIL ARORA AND ALEJANDRO VELEZ — THE PAIR BEHIND BACK TO THE ROOTS' ORGANIC MUSHROOM FARM KITS, BEST SHROOM STARTERS (ABOVE); BEST VINYL YACK-FEST: BAY AREA RECORD FAIR BARF PHOTO BY ERIN DAGE

CONT>>

BEST SOARING TOWERS OF NERDOM

Cards & Comics Central is a nerd Mecca. Some comics shops build a reputation on special artist appearances, others are known for their music, but this place just has stuff, and a lot of it. The store's selection of models, import toys, and hard-to-find collectibles is eclectic and vast, as if a team of expert-dorks went on a shopping spree (surely this is not far from the truth). From a vintage 1995 two-foot statue of Poison Ivy to a custom model of the EVA-02 from anime classic Neon Genesis Evangelion, the shop's inventory is stacked so high it needs ladders to access everything. Happily, staff is eminently knowledgeable in the face of such baffling bounty. Don your cape and batarang your way over.

5424 Geary, SF. (415) 668-3544,
www.canddcentral.com

BEST BUTCH LOOKS

Bay Guardian Hot Pink List honoree **Kipper Clothiers** is the latest to push forward a trend that has us clapping together our clothes hangers: genderqueer clothing. In this case, the specialty is sharp yet traditional men's business-wear made with a wide variety of genders and body types in mind — any member of the LGBT community will find be-suited sartorial bliss here. Erin Berg and Kyle Moshrefi funded their Gough Street boutique via Kickstarter, the go-to for entrepreneurs with community-favorite business plans.

Do you need a sharp buttondown shirt that fits comfortably over bosoms? A three-piece suit that works with ample hips? Head into Kipper and get yourself measured for a look that kills — or check out online stock for bowties and sneaky flasks with class.

78 Gough, SF. (415) 8900-4431,
www.kipperclothiers.biz

BEST PREPARATION FOR OUR NEW ROBOT OVERLORDS

Epilog Legend EXT laser system. Did a chill just course down your spine? You, friend, sound like you need to get in with **Robotics For Fun**, the robot-making school for young people founded by smarty-pants Jutiki Gunter back in 2004. What will science-loving youth find under its auspices? Courses on animating creatures from intelligent vacuum cleaners to vehicles capable of going 15 miles an hour. Opportunities

to learn about the power of one's own hands. And yes, the chance to use a laser etcher to create parts far too precise to be made without, you know, a laser. (Plus you can buy really cute do-it-yourself robot kits, including T-Rexes and unicorns!) Challenging, yet sup-

portive, Gunter's classes range from entry level to advanced. Take them all, then take over the world.

2533 Broadway, Oakl. (510) 597-0772,
www.roboticsforfun.com

BEST CRATE-DIGGING TO THE ROOTS

Since 1976, this quietly unpretentious El Cerrito spot has been offering up awesome jazz, blues, Americana, bluegrass, Cajun music, and more great roots genres, on CD, DVD, vinyl, and cassette tape. The plaid-clad,



banjo-toting young hipster band of the moment might be playing shows in the Mission, but it's at **Down Home Music** that it's doing its homework (by way of crate-digging, of course, an art that we dare say is making a comeback).

CONTINUES ON PAGE 78 >>

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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST CRATE-DIGGING TO THE ROOTS

CONT>>

Next time you hear someone say they get all their music online, point them toward Down Home — the owners' knowledge and the store's atmosphere will enlighten any mp3-head.

10341 San Pablo, El Cerrito. (510) 525-2129, www.downhomemusic.com

BEST BIBLIO-SAFARI

Just off Piedmont Avenue, **Book Zoo** is stocked with poetry and fiction and cookbooks, sure. But the real reason to go is for the seemingly endless supply of the unexpected and amazing that comprises the rest of its eclectic stock. It's not just that you're likely to encounter obscure titles on subjects as varied as narcotics history, Cree knot tying, ESP, and art forgery that you never knew you needed. Frequently, the books themselves are physically stunning. Happily, it's far from the Tumblr-esque retail experience of other specialty booksellers at pains to underscore their well-curated good taste. Come here for a lit quest that is always



BEST SMART 'N' SPEEDY: A RUNNER'S MIND

friendly, routinely surprising, and decidedly unpretentious.

14 Glen, Oakl. (510) 654-2665, www.bookzoo.net

BEST PIXELATED PLEASURE PALACE

Retro 8- and 16-bit machines are all the rage in Gene Pereverzev's **GameShop Classic** videogame store.

Tucked away inside Fix-It-Laptop, the shop boasts a stock rife with consoles from our childhoods. The Sega Game Gear, Atari Lynx, Magnavox Odyssey, even the now-retro Sony Playstation are part of Pereverzev's not-so-humble collection. His team of modders will install any doo-hickey in any videogame doodad of your choosing, handy for swapping out faulty Xbox fans or installing lights in Game Boys that never had them in the first place. In an age where pushy corporate clerks peddle useless videogame pre-orders, GameShop Classic is a functional hub of the collaborative geeky culture of yore. Game on.

2101 Taraval, SF. (415) 242-9990, www.gameshopclassic.com

BEST PHAT FIGHTERS

All too often in this foodie-centric metropolitan area of ours, good

eats come with a price tag that places them far out of reach of the common individual's hungry paws. That's why food justice organization **Phat Beets Produce** satisfies two of our favorite cravings: fresh produce and class-conscious economic action. It's hard to fit the many programs Phat Beets runs in this space, but let's start here: an affordable CSA program that connects small local farmers and price-conscious families (packages run from \$16-25); multiple farm stands and markets throughout the East Bay, partnerships with urban farms, and hella ways to get involved with anti-displacement and neighborhood safety programs. Ah, all of a sudden we feel nice and full.

www.phatbeetsproduce.org

BEST MAD STYLE FOR YOUR PAD

Some of us have great taste in clothes, friends, and food — but fab taste in home furnishings is often elusive or another league entirely. Fortunately Brian Allen decided to open his Castro shop, **\$16 Home**, so you can benefit from his keen eye (and the fact he gets up to hit the flea markets a whole hell of a lot earlier than you). A professional stager for some of the choicest real estate in town, Allen decided to get a bit more intimate, with personal selections you'll want to snatch up and show off. You'll find 1930s club chairs, groovy objets for your bookcase or desk, funky lights from the '60s, and all kinds of chic vintage or unique modern decor items to make you look like an arbiter of taste. (His shop is also swell for gifts). Follow along on \$16's Facebook page for recent acquisitions.

286 Sanchez, SF. www.s16home.com

BEST WESTERNALIA

"Oh, another bookstore," you think. "Maybe I'll pop in and browse a minute." Be warned! The **Great Overland Book Co.** is no

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See Flipped Out Anita Knewigg

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BEST MAD STYLE FOR YOUR PAD: \$16 HOME



great discounted bestsellers, too, and any genre book you desire, covering subjects from nature and mystery to the nature of mystery. But owners Beau and Randy really know their stuff when it comes to Californiana, and the West's incredible print history.

345 Judah, SF. (415) 664-0126

BEST FACIAL REFRESH

Our poor faces. We abuse them all the time with too much sun, makeup, sleeping with makeup

on, not enough sleep, gloppy sunscreen, and not exfoliating since, oh, 2009. When you decide it's time to start fresh, pay a visit to **Felicia Gelardi Skin Care** in the Marina. First of all, she's absolutely the sweetest person, and her skin is like porcelain, so you know she's doing many things right. At a minimum, book yourself the 60-minute custom facial. For one hour, you'll have a lot of things taken care of, from extractions

CONTINUES ON PAGE 80 >>

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BEST OF THE BAY



KYLE MOSHREFI AND ERIN BERG OF KIPPER CLOTHIERS, BEST BUTCH LOOKS (ABOVE); BEST PIXELATED PLEASURE PALACE: GAMESHOP CLASSIC

GUARDIAN PHOTO OF KIPPER CLOTHIERS BY CABURE BONUGLI / SHOT IN THE CITY;
GUARDIAN PHOTO OF GAMESHOP CLASSIC BY AMANDA RHOADES

BEST FACIAL REFRESH

CONT>>

and moisturizing to a good steam. Oh yeah, and a great shoulder massage. The place is casual but she uses excellent products, and after your first visit, you'll start seeing some killer deals in your inbox to inspire you to make it a regular visit. In no time, you'll look mahvelous!

2458 Chestnut, SF. www.fgskincare.com

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gourmet organic meal, delivered to our door faster than we can close the window of **Sprig**, the prepared meal delivery service from former Google chef Nate Keller that's got desk jockeys and homebodies finally eating right for cheap. Oh, you know, just a green-curry yam noodle bowl. Or blackened chicken sandwich with mango. Sauerbraten with garlic smashed potatoes. Soy sausage and kale stew. Lunch, \$9, dinner \$10,

menu changes daily (it's hip that way.) Delivered in no time flat — under 20 minutes — from a fleet of deliverers who seem actually happy to see you.

www.sprig.com

BEST AUDIO UPGRADE

When you're looking to make your beloved vinyl collection sound like a million bucks without actually spending a million bucks, the pros at the locally-owned, independent, audio-philes' playground that is **Music Lovers** are essentially equipment sherpas on demand. With a staggering stock of speakers, amplifiers, headphones, and audiovisual toys at both their Berkeley and SF locations, founders Jae Wheeler and Hugh Fountain have been running Music Lovers for 25 years with a focus on quality over brand-name fashion, and pride themselves on being among the first to embrace the concept of an affordable, awesome-sounding home theater — decades before Beats By Dre was a twinkle in the hip-hop mogul's eye. (Just don't blame us if you walk out with much more than you went in for.)

2116 Blake, Berk., (510) 558-1000 and 2295 Bush, SF, (415) 345-8111.
www.musicloversaudio.com

BEST LITERAL EXPANSION

It's easy to get pessimistic about the future of bookstores — hell, about the future of books, period — when you read headline after headline about indie lit purveyors struggling or outright closing their doors. And then there's Green Apple Books, which has long been one of our favorite places to rifle through stacks upon stacks of used books until we find that perfect antique cookbook or out-of-print detective novel. In the face of a contracting market for IRL book shopping, the venerable

CONTINUES ON PAGE 82 >>

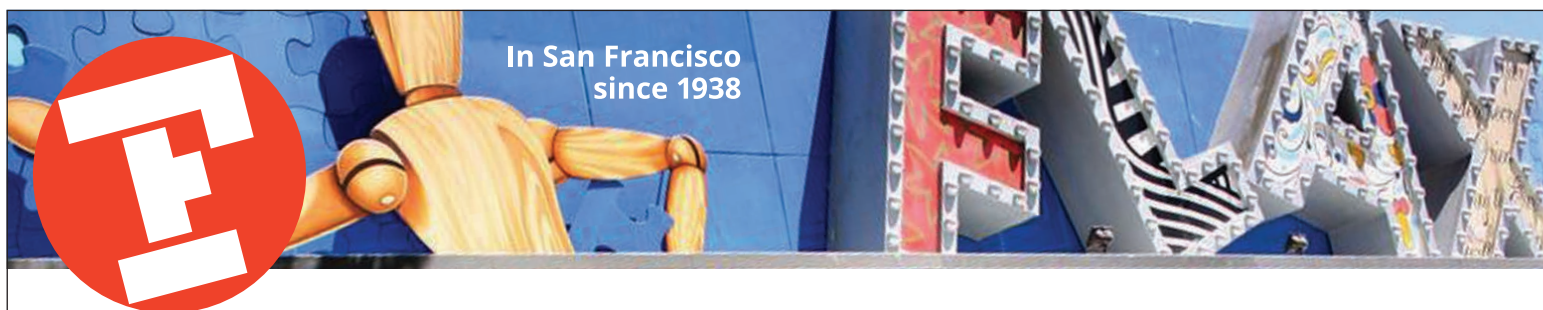


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BEST OF THE BAY

BEST LITERAL EXPANSION

CONT>>

SF store elicited shock and awe this year by doing the unthinkable: expanding. The opening of the brand-new **Green Apple Books on the Park** in the Inner Sunset (it shares the rent with neighborhood stalwart movie rental spot Le Video), gave us a much-needed jolt of optimism, especially when one of its first-ever events was a sweet Haruki Murakami mid-night release party.

1231 Ninth Ave., SF. (415) 742-5833, www.greenapplebooks.com

BEST WAK IT OUT

Sometimes one wakes up with a fierce, fierce urge to make a big pot of Nigerian egusi soup, with a side of kinky jollof rice. You're probably not going to find the ingredients you need at the Safeway. African food fanatics head straight to 16-year-old Oakland mainstay **Man Must Wak**, an African and Caribbean grocery store with everything you need for a feast. "Man must walk" is a Nigerian saying meaning "man must eat to survive" — but man must also cook really amazing

BEST PRESENT TENTS:

ALITE DESIGNS

GUARDIAN PHOTO
BY ERIN CONGER



food, drink Jamaican beer, and wonder at the multi-various culinary and health applications of huge bitter kola nuts. Owner Mama KayKay took over the business when her husband passed away, and has been keeping things running smoothly for a devoted clientele of African immigrants and descendants. Oh, and you can get most of your run-of-the-mill corner-store supplies here, too — but don't you want a bag of African smoked chicken, too?

547 Eighth St., Oakl.
(510) 444-2841, www.facebook.com/africancaribbeanfoodmarket

BEST SOLES WITH SOUL

Yes, you can buy pretty shoes at **Solespace** — vegan and eco-conscious shoes, Sophia Chang for Puma ombre sneakers, vividly hued boots from Spain with kitten heels, even. But there is so much more to this downtown Oakland storefront than retail offerings. Take for example the community-based events that draw young, creative, diverse crowds into the shoe store's doors, there to sip wine and chat during First Friday

CONTINUES ON PAGE 84 >>

Celebrate National Pizza Month

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BEST SOLES WITH SOUL
CONT>>

celebrations. Live African music may float in from a sidewalk performance, or a DJ could be spinning right there on the showroom floor. And the art! This summer, radical creative types used Solespace as their gallery, from an all-woman zine and art show in June to "Our Lives Matter," an exhibition featuring new work by Oakland graffiti artist Refa One and Ajuan Mance, whose work focused on the lives of youth threatened by police violence. 1714 Telegraph, Oakl. www.solespace.com

BEST PRESENT TENTS

As attached as we are to city living, one of the best things about San Francisco is its proximity to the great outdoors. As any fresh air addict knows, there are a host of mountains to climb, beaches to explore, woods to traverse, and lakes to swim in, all within striking distance of the city streets. **Alite Designs** wants you to remember that you're close to natural beauty, and you don't need to be a trekking expert to enjoy it. The local outdoor gear company produces quality backpacks, chairs, and a host of other equipment for making adventures in the wild more transcendent that rugged. Learn about campsites and what you need for your trip at the Ranger Station lending library, where you can also reserve gear to borrow free of charge. And now there's even a Mission District retail location? A night snuggling under the stars in a toasted-marshmallow-and boxed-wine-induced haze never felt so attainable.

Ranger Station: 2505 Mariposa, SF.
Retail store: 3376 18th St., SF. (415) 626-1526, www.alitedesigns.com **SFBG**

Fighting for CCSF

BY JOHN RIZZO

OPINION Although I did not have the opportunity to address the Bay Guardian editorial board, I feel it important for the readership to know why I am running for reelection to the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees.

I first ran for the board to fight corruption and mismanagement at City College. The problems were rampant, as reported in the Bay Guardian and other news outlets, and included construction mismanagement to the tune of \$200 million in waste. I fought against top administrators, three of whom pleaded guilty to money laundering.

I led the effort to fix the problems they created, despite pushback from some other board members and some in the college. At first, I did not have the votes to fire these administrators, but we did push them out after several months.

I sought the presidency of the board in order to more strongly address these and other problems that had come to light, including the threat to revoke accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

To address accreditation, I increased the frequency of board meetings from monthly to weekly. I urged the board to bring in auditors to identify problems and recommend solutions. The board updated dozens of policies, restructured top management, and implemented multi-year planning processes. The last budget the board passed had a multi-million-dollar surplus. Most importantly, the board passed the Accreditation Plan, which is now over 90 percent completed.

Unfortunately, ACCJC hasn't visited City College in 18 months. Nor has it reviewed the massive amount of work City College has done. The City Attorney is suing ACCJC, and the State Auditor issued a damning report about it. Earlier this year, the Bay Guardian quoted Jackie Speier as saying that the "ACCJC has run amok and lost their vision, if they ever had one."

ACCJC believes that City College should reduce the scope of its offerings to focus on transferring high school graduates to four-year colleges after two years.

Yet, only a little over 7,000 students of City College's 80,000

students are under 20 years old. City College trains tens of thousands of other students directly for the job market. City College plays a major role in the economy by providing learning and training, much of which is not available in private sector.

These include top-rated hotel, culinary, horticulture, radiology, nursing, construction, and other vocational training programs. City College has 20,000 students of English as a second language, which enables immigrants to climb out of poverty. We help people who already have degrees transition to new careers. We have programs for the disabled, former foster youth, and other special needs communities. We can't give up on these programs to satisfy an out-of-touch agency that doesn't talk to the public.

During the past year, I've been working with members of the Legislature to build support for City College and to make sure that ACCJC evaluates our 90-percent completed Accreditation Plan. I also helped Assemblymember Tom Ammiano pass AB 2087, which will restore voter control to City College. While the board has been suspended over the past year, an appointed special trustee has been making decisions in a back room.

The next four years are crucial. I will continue to fight to lift the threat of dis-accreditation, which has caused a 25 percent drop in enrollment. I will work for an aggressive recruiting program to regain our lost students in order to sustain the diverse programs we offer.

We also need a board that provides strong oversight over the administration to make sure there is no rollback of the reforms I have worked hard to pass. I am concerned about a spike in administrator salaries at a time when teachers' salaries are being cut. And, the administration is spending millions of dollars on consultants when those scarce dollars should go to students.

I've tackled threats and intimidation from corrupt officials and an out-of-touch accrediting agency. City College needs strong and effective leadership because San Francisco needs a strong and educationally diverse City College. **SFBG**

John Rizzo is president of CCSF Board of Trustees and candidate for reelection.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Airbnb wins, SF loses

EDITORIAL We at the Guardian have been covering Airbnb's scofflaw behavior in San Francisco — a business model based on short-term tourist rentals that violated city law, compounded by defiance of city rulings that Airbnb should have been collecting and paying hotel taxes — since the spring of 2012 (see "The problem with the sharing economy," 5/1/12). So it was good to see the Board of Supervisors finally pass legislation addressing the issue last week.

Unfortunately, this flawed legislation will only exacerbate the city's affordable housing crisis and prolong the emotionally charged divisions that have formed around this issue. By refusing to accept reasonable amendments to his legislation, Board President David Chiu all but guaranteed this divisive fight will proceed into a ballot initiative campaign next year, which is not the best way to resolve this complicated problem.

There was no good policy reason why Chiu, Airbnb, and its supporters rejected the proposal to limit short-term rentals to 90 nights per year. That was the standard the legislation applied to unhosted rentals, and it should have also been applied to hosted rentals, those involving a spare room.

The reason he offered was that hosts need that income to make rent and remain in San Francisco, but the logic behind that emotional appeal just doesn't hold up because there are plenty of San Franciscans willing to pay good money to rent a room. The issue is whether that room goes to a visiting tourist or to a local resident who needs it, and this legislation inexplicably sides with the former over the latter.

The biggest winner here is Airbnb, a politically connected company with ties to both Chiu and Mayor Ed Lee, who has shielded it from enforcement of city laws for years now. And the biggest loser is

low-income renters in San Francisco, who are being hurt by the thousands of units already taken off the market by Airbnb hosts, a problem that will likely grow worse now that it's been legalized.

Chiu's rejection of an amendment requiring Airbnb to pay its back taxes, which total around \$25 million since the company was put on notice that they were owed, simply adds insult to this injury and sends a terrible message that powerful companies with political friends can flout their obligations to the city and still be rewarded.

Allowing San Franciscans to use Airbnb on an occasional basis was important, and there was an opportunity here for the kind of good compromise legislation on which Chiu prides himself. Instead, in the middle of a hotly contested election, Chiu rushed through one-sided legislation that will damage this city for years to come. It just didn't have to go down this way. **SFBG**



www.sfbg.com/mission-guide

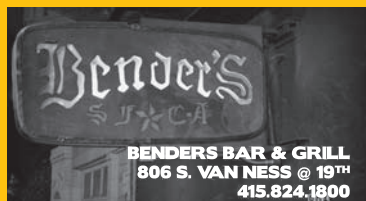
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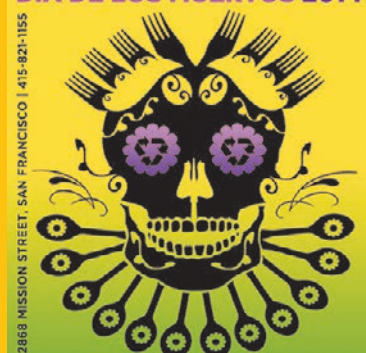


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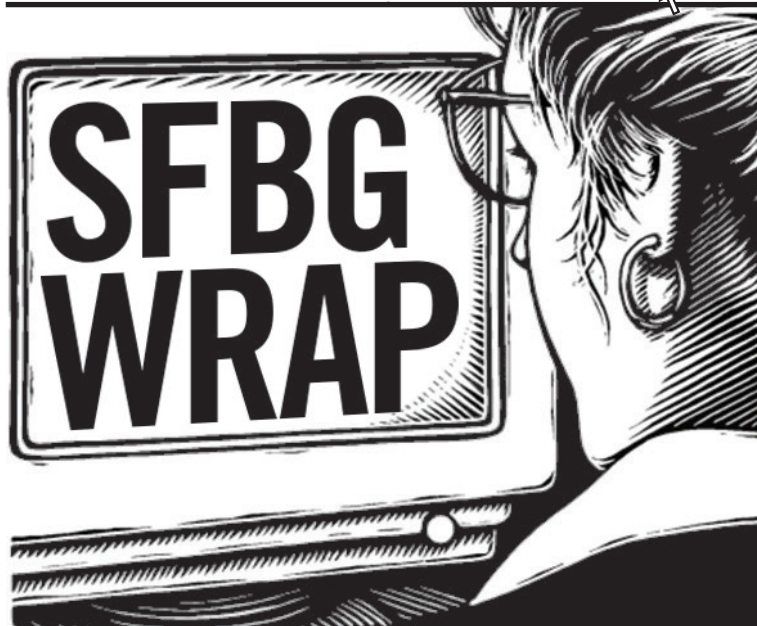


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ENDORSEMENTS EXPLAINED

As I sorted through the barrage of positive and negative feedback to the election endorsements we published last week — which included some tough calls that surprised some of our progressive allies — I'd like to explain how we at the Guardian approach our political endorsements and what they represent.

First of all, let me state clearly and categorically that our corporate owners had nothing to do with our decisions, which were made entirely by the Guardian's editorial board, which includes me, News Editor Rebecca Bowe, and Staff Writer Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez. And the three of us found consensus on all of our choices, sometimes after long discussions, even when we had differing initial views on a particular race or measure.

The other important point to make is that it's long been the Guardian's philosophy to avoid choosing "no endorsement" whenever possible. If voters have to make a tough decisions among bad or equally attractive options, then we shouldn't shrink from making that decision as well, even if that risks the scorn of a segment of our readership. This was the approach that I learned from former Guardian editors Bruce Brugmann and Tim Redmond, and it's an approach that I've encouraged us to continue as editor.

Finally, there's the philosophical question of what it means to endorse a candidate, a question that we've spent a lot of time pon-

dering and discussing during this election cycle.

At its most basic, our endorsement means that we think our readers should vote for this person or position in this election. That's all. It isn't a validation of everything a politician does or stands for, and our endorsements are often driven by a weak field of challengers more than the strength of an incumbent. (Steven T. Jones)

MORE SHADY PG&E E-MAILS

Even more internal Pacific Gas & Electric Co. e-mails — flagged by activists focused on safety concerns at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant — raise new questions about the company's tactics of manipulating the state regulatory process.

PG&E — which faces federal charges in connection with a 2010 fatal gas line explosion in San Bruno — has come under scrutiny in recent months due to a series of questionable e-mail exchanges revealing a cozy relationship between company executives and members of the California Public Utilities Commission, a scandal that culminated with CPUC President Michael Peevey announcing he would step down when his term ends in December.

According to a legal brief filed at the CPUC by the nuclear watchdog group Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, PG&E "brazenly ignored the commission's requirements" for working with a state-appointed independent review panel convened to review seismic safety studies at the nuclear power plant,

which is near several earthquake fault lines.

Internal PG&E e-mails obtained by the nuclear watchdog group through discovery, made possible through its status as an intervener in the CPUC rulemaking process, revealed that PG&E was concerned about fielding the panel's inquiries. A PG&E government affairs representative even asked his coworker in one message: "Do you believe we could get the [independent panel] 'decommissioned?'"

In another exchange, a utility executive suggested submitting "processed" data, rather than raw data, to demonstrate how it had arrived at certain conclusions regarding seismic safety.

Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility spokesperson David Weisman used an analogy to explain the significance: "It's like saying 'here's the cake. You might find that it tastes a little funny, but we aren't going to tell you what went into it.'"

In an e-mail to the Bay Guardian, the CPUC said that the independent panel would review the seismic study over the next few months. PG&E did not respond to a request for comment.

Several weeks ago, PG&E announced it had found no earthquake safety hazard at Diablo Canyon. But that determination was made before the independent review panel had a chance to review the company's analysis, or weigh in on whether it agreed with the science supporting this finding.

"If you release a report without the panel's review, that's not science," Weisman charged. "That's propaganda." (Rebecca Bowe)

FARRELL ENDORSES CAMPOS

Political moderate Supervisor Mark Farrell announced his endorsement of Supervisor David Campos for Assembly Oct. 9. That came as a real shocker: As part of the city's neoliberal to fiscal conservative faction, Farrell is about as ideologically opposed to Campos' brand of progressive politics as you can get in this city. If Campos is a firebrand with a picket sign, Farrell is a tie-wearing venture capitalist with his nose in a budget book.

"From working to close loopholes in San Francisco's universal healthcare law to enhancing

CONTINUES ON PAGE 88 >>

Sunday Streets in the Mission

October 19, 2014 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Programs subject to change



Roving entertainment:

- Bubblegirl

McCoppin Hub Plaza

- Los Chiles Verdes: Mission Youth Salsa Band
- Aspen Aerials

Valencia between Duboce and 14th

- About Face
- Reading Partners
- Annunciacion Cathedral
- La Casa de las Madres
- Sierra Club

Valencia between 14th and 15th

- Skunkfunk Valencia
- FREE Bike Rentals by Parkwide
- Live Music by Seth Lael
- Dahon - Free Bike Repair
- San Francisco Health Plan
- BAAQMD
- SF Water
- Rec and Park
- SF Flex Academy
- Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School
- SF Bay Guardian / Examiner
- Department of Public Works
- SF SAFE Bike Registry
- SFPD Talking Police Car

Valencia Between 15th and 16th:

- Sunday Streets Information Booth and Volunteer Check-in
- First Aid Station
- San Jose Earthquakes, MLS Soccer
- The Voice Of The Octagon (15th)
- Mission Pony

Valencia Between 16th and 17th:

- Laughing Lotus Yoga
- Cornerstone Church: Free water and Street Art Mural
- Harrington's: Live music by Rusty Stringfield (12pm-3:30pm), and Jen DeGroat & Jackie Lange Jewelry Pop Up
- Enjoy illy coffee tastings, experience a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony and learn about EXPO 2015: Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life
- Matter of Trust: Eco-fair at the Eco-Center (on 17th between Valencia and Mission)

Valencia and Sycamore

- Elbo Room: Dub Mission DJs

Valencia between 18th and 19th

- BlueDiamondsBellyDance 1 p.m.
- Women's Building: Somatic Movement
- Pet Programs: Happy Hounds Massage, Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue, Northern California Family Dog Rescue
- Mission Bicycle
- DPW Street Sweeper
- Betabrand: Live DJ/Runway

Valencia Between 19th and 20th:

- Open Bluegrass Jam hosted by the Beauty Operators String Band
- Out Of The Booth Photobooth

Valencia between 20th and 21st:

- Live music by Curious Quail
- Bay Area Hoopers
- Aquarium of the Bay
- Total Care Plus: free massages
- Integral Yoga Institute: Hatha Yoga 12, 1, 2, 3 p.m., Yoga for Cyclists 12 p.m., Chair Yoga 12,1,2, 3 p.m.
- Rin Tin Tiger

Valencia between 21st and 22nd:

- Radio Valencia at Aquarius Records
- Abada Capoeira
- Vida
- SF Bike Coalition: Freedom From Training Wheels
- Senior area: Community Living Campaign, Self Help for the Elderly,
- SCRAP: "Collage Coasters" Art Activity
- Nexus Artreach

Valencia Between 22nd and 23rd:

- Radio Habana Cuban Rumba
- CCSF

23rd between Valencia and San Jose

- BBoy Connection
- AcroSports

23rd between Valencia and Bartlett:

- Walk San Francisco
- SF Planning Department
- KYLD- WILD 949 FM
- Sports Basement - Free Bike Repair
- Airbnb - funzone

Valencia Between 23rd and 24th:

- Sunday Streets Information Booth and Volunteer Check-in
- Buena Vista Horace Mann: Kermes Fall Festival in the courtyard: face painting, crafts, games, food, and fun activities from the Exploratorium
- City CarShare
- New Wheel: Electric bike test rides
- Department of Elections
- Shape Up
- Revolution Foods: Healthy meal kits
- SFMOMA
- Sutter Health CPMC
- Umpqua Bank: Pedal powered smoothies & spin art
- Maikaze Daiko (24th) 11:30 - 12:30
- Bay Leaf Kitchen: Painting with fruits and vegetables, make healthier granola and breakfast parfaits

Valencia between 24th and 25th

- Swing Dancing
- Planned Parenthood
- SFF Soccer Clubs
- The Rabbit Hole

Valencia between 25th and 26th

- EHS Pilates

Presented by:



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FARRELL ENDORSES CAMPOS CONT>>

public safety and reducing homelessness by helping to implement Laura's Law, David has proven his commitment to finding solutions through cooperation and compromise," Farrell said.

In that compromise, Farrell got Laura's Law, and Campos and homeless advocates won vital protections. That's the kind of compromise board President David Chiu, Campos' opponent in the Assembly race, has said time and time again that Campos is not capable of due to his staunch progressive values.

Although Chiu has passed much legislation, and brands himself as the "compromise candidate," many political insiders noted that's an easy political position when you maneuver yourself into becoming a key swing vote. When the board is split and you are the lone vote that could make or break legislation, people must compromise with you. There's a hammer over their heads.

"As a new legislator you don't come up there with a ton of authority," Farrell told us. "It's about forging relationships and working for compromise. David Campos did that with me on the Board of Supervisors, and I believe he could do that in the Assembly." (Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez)

Essentially, the suit charges that accreditors stacked the deck with evaluators inclined to disagree with many of the funding choices and other decisions made by City College administrators.

The ACCJC may not have had much luck in court on Tuesday, but Judge Karnow issued a warning to the City Attorney's Office as well, saying it must prove there was true harm against City College. "It cannot just be a technical violation," Karnow said, sternly.

We asked Eisenberg how she would prove this. "I'm a little loathe to get into our strategy in advance of the trial," she told the Guardian. "But when you don't get a fair review of an institution, particularly a public community college, that in itself is a harm." (Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez)

RISE UP



WEDNESDAY 15

LITQUAKE — WOMEN IN WAR: TRUTH AND FICTION

San Francisco Public Library Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin, SF. [www.swords-to-plowshares.org/litquake](#). 6-9pm, free. Join Swords to Plowshares and Litquake for this panel discussion on women veterans, who are now authors, as they discuss what it means to fight as a woman soldier/sailor and much, much more. Featuring Kristin Beck, a former U.S. Navy SEAL and coauthor of the book *Warrior Princess: A U.S. Navy Seal's Journey to Coming Out Transgender*; Kayla Williams, a former soldier and author of two memoirs about war; Mariette Kalinowski, formerly of the U.S. Marine Corps; and Evette Davis, the author of *Woman King*, the first installment in the Dark Horse Trilogy.

THURSDAY 16

FREEDOM ARCHIVES 15-YEAR CELEBRATION

African American Art and Culture Complex, 762 Fulton, SF. 7-9:30pm, \$15. [www.freedomarchives.org](#). Join social justice activists and cultural workers in celebrating the Freedom Archives, and its 15 years of preserving the Bay Area's radical history through an online database, radio and video documentaries, and publications. Festivities include live music by Tarika Lewis, the first woman to join the Black Panther Party, and the Youth Ensemble; Puerto Rican spoken word and Latin jazz musician Rico Pabon and a live band. Emceed by Anita Johnson of Hard Knock Radio.

SATURDAY 18

PANEL: RE-IMAGINE OAKLAND

First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME), 3701 Telegraph, Oakl. 2-4pm, donation requested. This event, organized by the mayoral campaign Dan Siegel for Oakland, is being held to discuss Oakland's challenges of inequity, economic decline, and struggling schools — and to reimagine a future where citizens have the opportunity to thrive. Panelists include former Congress member Dennis Kucinich, former state Sen. Tom Hayden, and Maria Poblet of Oakland Rising Action.

MONDAY 20

FLIPPING OFF SPECULATION: A COMEDY BENEFIT FOR YES ON PROP G

Public Works, 161 Erie, SF. [speculationfreef.com](#). 6pm, doors open till 9:30pm. \$20 pre-sale, \$25 at the door. This is comedy benefit for Yes on G, the anti-speculation tax to stem the rise of evictions, starring Nato Green, Dhaya Lakshminarayanan, Matt Lieb, and Natasha Muse. Emceed by Karina Dobbins. Laugh your way to tenant victory at the San Francisco ballot. **SFBG**

CITY COLLEGE COURT BATTLE CONTINUES

The courtroom saga between City College of San Francisco and its accreditors reached a new milestone yesterday, as Superior Court Judge Curtis Karnow rejected the accreditors' motion to dismiss the City Attorney's Office's case against the decision to close the college, yet again.

"This is the fourth time they've tried to say they're immune (from a lawsuit)," Sara Eisenberg, lead prosecutor from the City Attorney's Office told us. "It's a running theme."

The City Attorney's Office is representing the people of the state of California (not the college directly), suing the ACCJC for what it charges was an unfair accreditation evaluation. Accreditation is vital for degrees from colleges to be worth the paper they're printed on, a process many schools go through.

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WEDNESDAY/15

REELABILITIES BAY AREA DISABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL

The local film scene is dynamic enough to support two different festivals focusing on people with disabilities, the first of which — ReelAbilities Bay Area Disabilities Film Festival, presented by Oakland's Creative Growth Art Center in partnership with ReelAbilities New York — kicks off today. (The second is the Superfest International Disability Film Festival, which opens Nov. 2; check out superfestfilm.com for more info.) ReelAbilities highlights films by and about people with autism, war injuries, blindness, and other disabilities; opening-night pick *Wampler's Ascent* is a doc about Steve Wampler, whose cerebral palsy didn't stop him from climbing Yosemite's intimidating El Capitan. He'll be in attendance at the film's New Parkway Theater screening. (Cheryl Eddy)

Through Sun/19, free-\$25
Various venues in Oakl and SF
www.bayareareelabilities.org

CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH

For a band whose career seems to perpetually exist under the shad-



ow of its near-universally loved 2005 debut, CYHSY has kept on truckin', and then some. *Only Run*, released this June, revealed a move toward more ambient, synth-influenced sounds in the place of urgent, anxious guitar, but the chaotic charm so many critics fell in love with nearly a decade ago is intact; live, the band still has a reputation for a hell of a show. Bonus: This is part of the two-day Culture Collide festival, which means you get CYHSY plus 30+ other bands for darn cheap — so you basically have no excuse



REELABILITIES SEE WEDNESDAY/15

not to go see for yourself. (Emma Silvers)
7:30pm, \$25 for a festival pass
The Chapel
777 Valencia, SF
(415) 551-5157
www.thechapelsf.com

THURSDAY/16

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 17th year, the United Nations Association Film Festival — originally founded to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — returns with yet another intriguing program of short and feature-length documentaries that focus on social-justice and human-rights



issues. Higher-profile picks include an emotional look at the lives of the few doctors in America who perform late-term abortions, *After Tiller*; harrowing war-crimes tale *The Kill Team*; *Regarding Susan Sontag*, about the writer and activist; and *In the Wake of Stalin*, about the dictator's lingering presence in Russia. (Eddy)

Through Oct 26, \$10
Various venues, Palo Alto and SF
www.unaff.org

FRIDAY/17

CAKES DA KILLA, MIKEQ, AND RYE RYE

Break out your dancing shoes — and they better be fabulous ones. We'd get excited about any one of these fashion-forward cats coming to town, but all three could mean dangerous levels of sass. Cakes, whose candy-sweet persona is cut with a fast and foul mouth, and MikeQ, one of the underground ballroom/vogue-house scene's leaders, are doubling your pleasure as part of their "2Cunts1Whip" tour this month, while triple-threat Rye Rye — arguably one of the most underrated young MCs right now, period (no need for that "female" qualifier) — has worked with

everyone from Pharrell Williams to Diplo, in addition to her fashion



and acting gigs. Talk about your threesomes. (Silvers)
With Swagger Like Us and 120 Minutes
9pm, \$10-\$13
Public Works
161 Erie, SF
(415) 496-6738
www.publicsf.com

THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Happy 40th birthday to low-budget horror classic *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* — still as unnerving and gut-rattling as it was back in 1974, when a UT grad named Tobe Hooper grabbed his 16mm camera, a bunch of enthusiastic friends, and several piles of rotting meat, and made movie history.

He also made headlines (with that title, pearl-clutching media types were bound to notice) en route to gathering a cult following that's only grown and gotten more rabid. Experience it like it's your first time at this showing of the official rerelease version, which we have on good authority looks "bloody spectacular." (Eddy)

Also Sat/18, 11:55pm, \$8-10.50
Clay Theatre
2261 Fillmore, SF
www.landmarktheatres.com

TERROR-RAMA

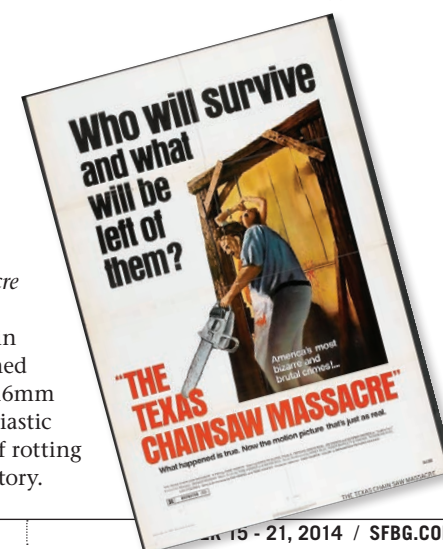
This double-feature show promises to be a blood-soaked event, combining two creepy new plays: *Creep*, by Nick Pappas, is a story



of two detectives hunting down a sociopathic killer who plays "judge, jury, and executioner" to innocent women before bringing them to their untimely deaths. Creepy, indeed. And *Camp Evil*, by Anthony R. Miller, is about a family aiming to reopen the eerily deserted Camp Madjahando...as the gruesome tragedy of the past comes back to haunt them, mirroring classic horrors like *Friday the 13th* and *Sleepaway Camp*. (Haley Brucato)

Through Sat/18, \$20
EXIT Studio
156 Eddy, SF
(415) 673-5944
www.theexit.org

CONTINUES ON PAGE 90 >>



CONT>>

SATURDAY/18

CELEBRITY TWITTERATURE

What's better than popping some popcorn, sitting back, and watching celebrity dirt and drama unfold in real time thanks to the wonders of social media? Why, having San Francisco's fiercest drag queens narrate it for you, of course! Celebrity Twitterature is the Bay Guardian's annual contribution to the jam-packed nine-day lit lovers' affair that is Litquake. Grab a drink and put your feet up as the year's most scandalous tabloid trials, triumphs, and tribulations come to life — via Twitter — through hilarious reenactments by D'Arcy Drollinger, Heklina, Martha T. Lipton, and Ben McCoy. Don't forget your phone, either; photos of this event are, of course, social media gold. And would it be meta to live-tweet all night? (Silvers) 7:15pm, free Beauty Bar 2299 Mission, SF bit.ly/celebtwitterature

SCREAMING FEMALES

Known as one of the most reliably aggressive lady-fronted punk bands still in existence, New Jersey's Screaming Females surprised more than a handful of people when they debuted a lighter, janglier (yet still super-heavy guitar hook-driven) sound with their recent single, "Wishing Well." The 7-inch will be available at the Hemlock at this stop on their current national tour (one of 33 shows in 37 days), but don't expect this to be a permanent departure. "I vaguely recall my wonderful aunt mentioning that we finally had written a song she liked," singer-guitarist Marissa Paternoster recently told Rolling Stone. "So if you're in



the market for a family-friendly Screaming Females song, this is your chance." (Silvers) 9pm, \$10 Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk, SF (415) 923-0923 www.hemlocktavern.com

MONDAY/20

LIT SLAM

Everyone's favorite fast-paced lit event returns this month, featuring four-time national poetry slam champ Dominique Christina. Her writing celebrates the civil rights movement and her family heritage

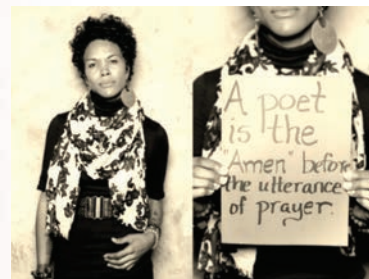


CELEBRITY TWITTERATURE
SEE SATURDAY/18



NAS
SEE TUESDAY/21

within a global perspective. She's one of the best — not to mention the only person to hold two national titles in the field at the same time. And to liven things up, this slam is not your average poetry competition. Five members of the audience will be randomly selected to judge, and the poems they choose will be published in the annual anthology *Tandem*. Come out and enjoy a night with voices from all corners of the writing world, in a moving "intersection



of page and stage." (Brucato) 7pm, \$10 The Shelton Theatre 533 Sutter, SF www.thelitslam.com

TUESDAY/21

STINKY CHEESE CLUB

To cheese or not to cheese? That is *never* the question. Bender's is hosting its monthly meeting of the Stinky Cheese Club once again. Pack up your smelliest mold and some crackers to smother it over for a not-so-classy wine and cheese event. Because, well, forget the wine. You'll get a free can of PBR or well drink instead if you contribute some scrumptious delights.

And, yes, you might be left wondering who cut the cheese after walking into this pungent crowd. (Brucato) 5:30pm-8pm, free Bender's Bar & Grill 806 South Van Ness, SF (415) 824-1800 www.bendersbar.com

NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC

There's no question that 1994 was a big year for music, and Nas's landmark debut, *Illmatic*, tops many a critic's list for reasons why: Emerging from the streets of Long Island City, Nas was an articulate, poetic, realist voice for the second golden age of East Coast hip-hop. The new Tribeca Film Institute-supported documentary *Time Is Illmatic* follows the rapper through the odds he overcame to create the record up through the impact it still has today. This special tour pairs Nas performing the album live in its entirety with a screening of the film; for would-be hip-hop historians, this is not to be missed. (Silvers) 8pm, \$39.50-\$69.50 Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph, Oakl (510) 302-2250 www.thefoxoakland.com **SFBG**

The Guardian listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration, please include the title of the event, a brief description of the event, date and time, venue name, street address (listing cross streets only isn't sufficient), city, telephone number readers can call for more information, telephone number for media, and admission costs. Send information to Listings, the Guardian, 835 Market Street, Suite 550, SF, CA 94103; or e-mail (paste press release into e-mail body — no attachments, please) to listings@sfbg.com. Digital photos may be submitted in jpeg format; the image must be at least 240 dpi and four inches by six inches in size. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone.

LISTINGS MUSIC

WEDNESDAY 15

ROCK

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Young Rebel Set, 8pm, \$8-\$10.
The Chapel: Culture Collide S.F., w/ Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Nervous Nellie, Nothing But Thieves, Gossling, Level & Tyson, 7:30pm, \$23.75 for festival pass.
El Rio: The Nerv, Bite, The Connies, 9pm, \$5.
Elbo Room: Culture Collide S.F., w/ Beat Connection, Sleep Thieves, Monokino, The Delta Riggs, Wag, Popstrangers, 7pm, \$23.75 for festival pass.
Hemlock Tavern: Meat Market, Ausmuteants, Bicycle Day, 8:30pm, \$7.
The Independent: Rubblebucket, Royal Canoe, 9pm, \$15.
The Knockout: Noise Clinic, Catacomb Creeps, Your Sister Broke My Heart, DJ Classic Bar Music, 9pm, \$7.
Mission Workshop: Culture Collide S.F., w/ No Sinner, Cafeine, The Oaths, 6pm, \$23.75 for festival pass.
Neck of the Woods: Sunrunners, Young Creatures, Builders, 8pm, \$8-\$10.

DANCE

Beaux: "BroMance: A Night Out for the Fellas," 9pm, free.
The Cafe: "Sticky Wednesdays," w/ DJ Mark Andrus, 8pm, free.
Cat Club: "Bondage-A-Go-Go," w/ DJ Damon, Tomas Diablo, guests, 9:30pm, \$7-\$10.
City Nights: "Electro Pop Rocks," 18+ dance party, 9pm, \$10-\$20.
DNA Lounge: "Go Deep!," 18+ dance party, 9pm, \$10-\$15.
F8: "Housepitality," w/ Jenö Void, Sean Murray, Blue J, Bai-ee, Tyrel Williams, 9pm, \$5-\$10.
Lookout: "What?," 7pm, free.
Madrone Art Bar: "Rock the Spot," 9pm, free.
Make-Out Room: "Burn Down the Disco," w/ DJs 2shy-shy & Melt w/U, Third Wednesday of every month, 9pm, free.
MatrixFillmore: "Reload," w/ DJ Big Bad Bruce, 10pm, free.
Q Bar: "Booty Call," w/ Juanita More, Joshua J, guests, 9pm, \$3.
S.F. Eagle: "Jock Strapped," w/ Michael Brandon & DJ Frank Wild, 9pm, \$5.
Underground SF: "Friends with Benefits," w/ DJ Marky Ray, 10pm, free.

JAZZ

Amnesia: Gaucho, Eric Garland's Jazz Session, The Amnesiaacs, 7pm, free; free.
Balancoire: "Cat's Corner," 9pm, \$10.
Bartlett Hall: Terry Disley Late Show Trio, 10pm, free.
Burritt Room: Terry Disley's Rocking Jazz Trio, 6pm, free.
Cafe Claude: Lisa Stano Trio, 7:30pm, free.
Cigar Bar & Grill: 850 Montgomery, San Francisco. Hardly Strictly Jazz, 8pm
Feinstein's at the Nikko: 222 Mason, San Francisco. Linda Kosut: "Easy Come, Easy Go: The Music of Johnny Green," 7pm, \$15.
Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: Charles Unger Experience, 7:30pm, free.
Le Colonial: The Cosmo Alleycats featuring Ms. Emily Wade Adams, 7pm, free.
Level III: Sony Holland, Wednesdays-Fridays, 5-8pm, free.
SFSU Campus, Knuth Hall: Greg Osby, 1pm, free.
Top of the Mark: Ricardo Scales, Wednesdays, 6:30-11:30pm, \$5.
Yoshi's San Francisco: New West Guitar Group with Sara Gazarek, 8pm, \$22-\$24.

SOUL

Boom Boom Room: "Soul Train Revival," w/ Ziek McCarter & The Funky Goods, 9:30pm, \$5.
Monarch: "Color Me Badd," coloring books and R&B jams with Matt Haze, DJ Alarm, Broke-Ass Stuart, 5:30-9:30pm, free.

THURSDAY 16

ROCK

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Walter TV, Tonstartssbandht, Blood Sister, 9pm, \$8-\$10.
Hemlock Tavern: Twin Steps, Homebody, Cross, Never Young, 8:30pm, \$7.
Hotel Utah: Kingkongzilla, Seeing Red, Time

FOR MORE MUSIC VISIT
SFBG.COM/NOISE

Spills, Solis Luminati, 9pm, \$10.
Independent: Russian Red, Babes, 8pm, \$15-\$18.
The Knockout: Violent Change, Andy Human & The Reptoids, Part Human, xNoBBQx, 9pm, \$7.
Milk Bar: S, Sea Knight, Wizard Apprentice, 8:30pm, \$8-\$10.
SFSU Campus, Cesar Chavez Student Center: GRMLN, Hot Flash Heat Wave, Jet Trash, Big Range & The Rangers, 6pm, free.
Slim's: O, Cash for Gold, Taxes, Bed, 8pm, \$13.

DANCE

1015 Folsom: "A Light in the Attic," w/ Russ Liquid, Little People, Lost Midas, 9pm, \$5-\$10.
Abbey Tavern: DJ Schrobi-Girl, 10pm, free.
Aunt Charlie's Lounge: "Tubesteak Connection," w/ DJ Bus Station John, 9pm, \$5-\$7; \$3.
Balancoire: "Electric SwingSet," 7:30pm, \$10 (+ \$5 for dance lessons).
Beaux: "My So-Called Night," '90s dance party with VJs Jorge Terez & Becky Knox, 9pm, free.
Cafe: "¡Pan Dulce!," 9pm, \$5; free.
Cat Club: "Class of '84," w/ DJs Damon, Steve Washington, Dangerous Dan, and guests, 9pm, \$8 (\$6 before 9:30pm).
The Cellar: "XO," 10pm, \$5.
Club X: "The Crib," 18+ LGBT dance party, 9:30pm, \$10, 18+.
Elbo Room: "Hi Life," w/ resident DJs Pleasuremaker & Izzy*Wize, 9:30pm, \$6.
F8: "Beat Church," w/ Coop Da Loop, Erica Dee, more, 9pm, \$5-\$10.
Harlot: "Set," w/ Henry Saiz, Travis Groneman, Mathew J, Jeff Hinchman, 9pm, \$10 advance.
Infusion Lounge: "I Love Thursdays," 10pm, \$10.
Madrone Art Bar: "Night Fever," 9pm, \$5 after 10pm
Mezzanine: ABC, DJ Shindog, 8pm, \$25.
Public Works: "As You Like It," w/ James Murphy (DJ set), Conor, Bells & Whistles, Tyrel Williams, Mike Bee, 9pm, \$18-\$25 advance.
Q Bar: "electroQute," 9pm
Raven: "1999," w/ VJ Mark Andrus, 9pm, free.
Rickshaw Stop: "Popsce," w/ Kate Boy, Kite

CONTINUES ON PAGE 92 >>

Benders
SF ★ CA
KITCHEN OPEN MON-SAT AT 6PM

10/15 **"WHISKEY WEDNESDAYS"**
\$5 PBR AND WHISKEY SHOT ALL NIGHT LONG

10/17 **DJ'S BIG DWAYNE & AJ**
SPIN SOUL/ROCKSTEADY 10PM FREE

10/18 **ALCOHOLocaust PRESENTS "SCOTT'S B-DAY PARTY"**
BLACK COBRA WILD EYES CULTURE ABUSE

10/19 **"SCHLITZ INDUSTRY NIGHT"**
\$4 SHOTS OF FERNET BRANCA, \$2 SCHLITZ BOTTLES, \$5 SHOTS BULLEIT BOURVBON, \$3 STOLI SHAKY SHOTS

10/20 **"MOJITO MONDAYS"**
\$5 MOJITOS ALL DAY AND ASS-END HAPPY HOUR 11 P.M. TO 2 A.M. \$1 OFF DRAFT/WELL

10/21 **"TEQUILA TWO-WHEELED TUESDAYS"**
\$6 SHOT OF TEQUILA WITH A CAN OF TECATE

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FROM DOUG LOVES MOVIES AND THE SARAH SILVERMAN PROGRAM!
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MATT CHAMPAGNE, JESSE ELIAS

TUESDAY 10/21
KO COMEDY: KABIR SINGH AND SAMMY OBEID

WEDNESDAY 10/22 - SATURDAY 10/25
FROM LHF AND HOME MOVIES!
EMO PHILIPS
RONN VIGH, DAVID STODERAKER

TUESDAY 10/28
DEATHSQUAD COMEDY
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FRIDAY 10/17 - SUNDAY 10/19
Star 101.3 presents
ILIZA SHLESINGER
From Last Comic Standing and Excused!

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LIVE IN BROOKLYN NY. (INSERT CITY NAME HERE)
WYATT CENAC
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FRIDAY 10/24 - SUNDAY 10/26
GARY OWEN
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FRI. OCT. 17 - DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 - \$35 ADV. / \$35 DOOR
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THE SLACKERS
SAMMY KAY • BLOOD OR WHISKEY

WED. OCT. 22 - DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 - \$17 ADV. / \$17 DOOR
THE PAINS OF BEING PURE AT HEART

THURS. OCT. 23 - DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8 - \$15 ADV. / \$15 DOOR
BRITGRASS INVASION
FEAT. BELLE MONROE & HER BREWGLASS BOYS, ERIK YATES & NAT KEEFE, THE T SISTERS, EMILY YATES, AMERICAN NOMAD, RUSTY SPRINGFIELD, SEDWICK BROTHERS, THE BEAUTY OPERATORS SYRING BAND

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OF MONTREAL
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SAT. OCT. 18 - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 - \$16 ADV. / \$21 DOOR
KC TURNER PRESENTS
MEGAN SLANKARD
QUINN DEVEAUX & THE BLUE BEAT REVIEW

MON. OCT. 20 - DOORS 7:30 / SHOW 8 - \$13 ADV. / \$16 DOOR
BASS DRUM OF DEATH
HOT FLASH HEAT WAVE

TUES. OCT. 21 - DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 - \$23 ADV. / \$23 DOOR
MELVINS
LE BUTCHERETTES

WED. OCT. 22 - DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 - \$20 ADV. / \$20 DOOR
KAT EDMONSON
BENJAMIN WINTER & THE MAKE BELIEVE

FRI. OCT. 24 TENNIS - SOLD OUT - THANK YOU!

MON. OCT. 27 - DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 - \$25 ADV. / \$25 DOOR
PUSS N BOOTS
FEAT. NORAH JONES, SASHA DOBSON & CATHERINE POPPER

TUES. OCT. 28 - DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 - \$20 ADV. / \$20 DOOR
THE WILD FEATHERS
THE APACHE RELAY • DESERT NOISES

WED. OCT. 29 - DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 - \$16 ADV. / \$18 DOOR
KING TUFF
LA SERA

UPCOMING SHOWS AT
THE CHAPEL

WED. 10/15 - \$20 FESTIVAL PASS (21+) - DOORS 6:30, SHOW 7:30
CULTURE COLLIDE FEAT. CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH

THU. 10/16 - \$20 ADV / \$23 DOOR - DOORS 8:30
SUNSETSF PRESENTS
QUANTIC (LIVE) WITH SPECIAL GUESTS LA GENTE

FRI. 10/17 - \$22 ADV / \$25 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
MIKE DOUGHTY'S WORLD-RENOWNED, AWARD-WINNING QUESTION JAR SHOW FEAT. ANDREW "SCRAP" LIVINGSTON

SUN. 10/19 - FREE IN CHAPEL BAR - MUSIC STARTS AT 8
BUFFALO PARTY PRESENTS HUNGRY SKINNY

TUE. 10/21 - DOORS 8, SHOW 9 - SOLD OUT, THANK YOU!
JESSIE WARE

WED. 10/22 - \$18 ADV / \$20 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
GRIFFIN HOUSE

THU. 10/23 - \$15 ADV / \$17 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
LEWIS WATSON
TIM COHEN (SOLO)

FRI. 10/24 - \$15 - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
BOOM BOOM ROOM PRESENTS
KATDELIC DANCE PARTY WITH DJ KEVVY KEV

SAT. 10/25 - \$15 - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
TRUTH & SALVAGE CO.
SEAN ROWE

MON. 10/27 - \$55 ADV / \$60 DOOR - DOORS 7, SHOW 8
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CONT>>

String Tangle, 9:30pm, \$15-\$17.
Ruby Skye: "Torq," w/ Far East Movement, 9pm, \$15-\$25 advance.
Underground SF: "Bubble," 10pm, free.
Vessel: Junior Sanchez, 10pm, \$8 advance.

ACOUSTIC

Amnesia: Brother Grand, The New Thoreaus, The Vivants, Miss Erma, 9pm, \$7-\$10.
Contemporary Jewish Museum: Sonny Smith, 7pm, \$5.
Plough & Stars: Topsy House, Third Thursday of every month, 9pm, free.
The Pour House: Jimbo Scott & Grover Anderson, 7pm, free.
Viracocha: Eight Belles, Heather Jovanelli Band, Bob Thayer, 8pm, \$10.

JAZZ

Cafe Claude: Marcus Shelby Trio, 7:30pm, free.
Cigar Bar & Grill: The Klipptones, 8pm
Feinstein's at the Nikko: Tony DeSare, Oct. 16-17, 8pm, \$40-\$55.
Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: Eugene Pliner Quartet with Tod Dickow, 7:30pm, free.
Le Colonial: Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums, 7:30pm
Level III: Sony Holland, 5-8pm, free.
The Lucky Horseshoe: Ralph Carney's Serious Jass Project, 9pm
Pier 23 Cafe: Hard Bop Collective, 7pm, free.
The Royal Cuckoo: Charlie Siebert & Chris Siebert, 7:30pm, free.
The Royale: West Side Jazz Club, 9pm, free.
Savanna Jazz Club: Savanna Jazz Jam with Eric Tillman, 7pm, \$5.
Yoshi's San Francisco: Greg Osby 4, 8pm, \$24.

SOUL

Make-Out Room: "In 'n' Out," w/ The Selector DJ Kirk, 10pm, free.
SFJazz Center: Fredericks Brown, in the Joe Henderson Lab, 7 & 8:30pm, \$25.

FRIDAY 17

ROCK

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Pup, Hard Girls, Mini Death, 9pm, \$10-\$12.
DNA Lounge: Wars, Tracing Figures, Astral, CIVC, on the Above DNA stage, 8:30pm, \$8-\$10.
Doc's Lab: Go by Ocean, Scary Little Friends, 8pm, \$10-\$12.
Elbo Room: Revenge, The Haunting Presence, Antebellum, Invocation War, Aquali, 8pm, \$20.
Independent: J. Roddy Walston & The Business,

Fly Golden Eagle, 9pm, \$15.
Rickshaw Stop: Pins, POW!, Quaaludes, 9pm, \$12.
Slim's: Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Hunter Hunted, Junior Prom, 8pm, \$34.50.
Thee Parkside: The Tossers, Continental, Druglords of the Avenues, Atomic Machines, 9pm, \$15.

DANCE

1015 Folsom: Snakehips, Stwo, Lil Silva, Wormhole Crew, 10pm, \$20 advance.
111 Minna Gallery: "#KnowYourWorld," Global Glimpse fundraiser for inner city youth travel scholarships featuring music by Planet Booty, Midtown Social, and DJ Jake Smith, 9pm, \$25.
Amnesia: "KandyBar," 10pm, \$5.
Audio Discotech: Curses, Pacific Disco, Papa Lu, 9:30pm, \$10-\$20.
BeatBox: "U-Haul: Peter Pan & The Lost Bois — A Special Halloween Edition," w/ DJs Jenna Riot

& China G, 9pm, \$10 (free before 10:30pm).
Beaux: "Manimal," 9pm, free before 10pm
The Cafe: "Boy Bar," 9pm, \$5.
Cat Club: "Dancing Ghosts: Old School — Goth vs. Industrial," w/ DJs Tomas Diablo, Sage, Xander, and Owen, 9:30pm, \$8.
The Cellar: "F.T.S.: For the Story," 10pm
DNA Lounge: "So Stoked: Halloween," w/ Kristina Sky, Tronic, SwitchBlade, Frost Raven, Jays One, Non Sequitur, Nightfall, The Guardians of Asgaard, 7pm, \$15-\$25.
F8: "Resonate: 5-Year Anniversary," w/ Mono/ Poly, Knxwledge, Squeaky Lobster, Mophono, Gypsy Mamba, Ruff Draft, Bdot, Citizen Ten, Joe Mousepad, Mr. Muddbird, Tone, 9pm, \$5-\$10.
The Grand Nightclub: "We Rock Fridays," 9:30pm
Madrone Art Bar: "That '80s Show," w/ DJ Dave Paul, 9pm, \$5.
MatrixFillmore: "F-Style Fridays," w/ DJ Jared-F, 9pm
Mighty: Mark Farina, DJ Heather, Rooz, 10pm, \$10-\$20 advance.
Monarch: "Solid Gold Jacuzzi," w/ Climbers, Jon Dadon, Corey Sleazemore, more, 10pm, \$10.
Q Bar: "Pump: Worq It Out Fridays," w/ resident DJ Christopher B, 9pm, \$3.
Raven: "Club Raven," w/ DJ Mark Andrus, 9pm, \$10.
Ruby Skye: Tchami, Trevor Simpson, Nick G, Kosplay, Adapt, 9pm, \$15-\$25 advance.
S.F. Eagle: "The Cubhouse: Tricks & Treats," w/ DJs Hail Thief & BigMike, 9pm, free before 10pm
Slide: "Phoria," w/ Paul Webster & James Dymond, 9pm, \$10 advance.
Underground SF: "Studio 3 AM," Third Friday of every month, 10pm, free.
Vessel: Mikey Tan, DJ Midnight, Rose, Kepik, 10pm, \$10 advance.

HIP-HOP

Bottom of the Hill: Jon Bellion, DJ Rhêtorik, Kyle M. Terrizzi, 9pm, \$12.
John Colins: "Juicy," w/ DJ Ry Toast, 10pm, \$5.
Public Works: Cakes da Killa, MikeQ, Rye Rye, 9pm, \$10-\$13 advance.
Showdown: "Fresh to Def Fridays: A Tribute to Yo! MTV Raps," w/ DJs Boom Bostic, Inkfat, and Hay Hay, 10pm
Slate Bar: "Megablast," w/ DJs Brycon & True Justice, 9pm, free.

ACOUSTIC

Chapel: Mike Doughty's World-Renowned, Award-Winning Question Jar Show, 9pm, \$22-\$25.
Chieftain: Ivor Collins, 8pm
Dolores Park Cafe: Andrew Griffin, Lizzie Karr, Scarth Locke, 7:30pm
Hotel Utah: Two Man Gentlemen Band, Alyssa Robbins, 9pm, \$10.
Milk Bar: The Jugtown Pirates, Chris Jeffries Homeless Romantic, Mark Nelson & Friends, 8pm, \$8.
Neck of the Woods: "Loud As Folk," w/ Kepi Ghoulie (of the Groovie Ghoulies), Bryan Jones (of Buster Blue), Spike McGuire (of Six Mile Station), John Underwood (of Deadly Gallows), Young Beautiful in a Hurry, 9:30pm, \$5.
Plough & Stars: "Bluegrass Bonanza," 9pm, \$6-\$10.
Sports Basement: "Breakfast with Enzo," w/ Enzo Garcia, 10am, \$5.

JAZZ

Atlas Cafe: Josh Taylor & Friends, 7:30pm, free.
Bartlett Hall: Terry Disley Late Show Trio, 10:30pm, free.
Bird & Beckett: The Scott Foster Group, 5:30pm
Biscuits & Blues: Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, 7:30 & 10pm, \$22.
Cafe Claude: Jerry Oakley Trio, 7:30pm, free.
Feinstein's at the Nikko: Tony DeSare, Oct. 16-17, 8pm, \$40-\$55.
Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: Charles Unger Experience, 7:30pm, free.
Kate's Kitchen: Suns of the Beach, Fridays, 7-10pm, free.
Level III: Sony Holland, 5-8pm, free.
Pier 23 Cafe: Dick Conte Trio, 8pm, free.
The Royal Cuckoo: Charlie Siebert & David Udolf, 7:30pm, free.
The Royale: Cyril Guiraud, 9pm, free.
Savanna Jazz Club: Roarin' Hounds, 7:30pm, \$8.
Sheba Piano Lounge: 1419 Fillmore, San Francisco. Sam Cady, 9pm
Top of the Mark: Black Market Jazz Orchestra, 9pm, \$10.
Zingari: Joyce Grant, 8pm, free.

THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL

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FRI. OCT 24

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THU. OCT 23

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SAT. OCT 25

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WED OCTOBER 29 • 9PM

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10.30 THE MAGICIAN

10.31 EATS EVERYTHING DUSKY

11.01 WOLFGANG GARTNER

11.06 COMMON KINGS

11.07 DAEDELUS

11.08 REBIRTH BRASS BAND

11.13 THE GREEN

11.14 RUN THE JEWELS

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22

CARNIVAL OF DEATH TOUR FEATURING SUFFOCATION & KATAKLYSM

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21

CHUCK PALAHNIUK: BEAUTIFUL YOU

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24

LIGABUE (AN EVENING WITH...)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24

AS BLOOD RUNS BLACK W/ RINGS OF SATURN, UPON THIS DAWNING

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26

CYANOTIC & THE RABID WHOLE W/ SPECIAL GUESTS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 30

BAD RABBITS W/ SOLWAVE, JEZ DIOR, RIO RIO

FRIDAY OCTOBER 31

ALL HALLOW'S EVE

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INTRONAUT W/ ANCIENTS, CONNESIEUR

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7

GAZELLE TWIN W/ POWWOWW, WITOWMAKER

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14

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UPCOMING EVENTS

10/25 - ROCK THE SHIP - COCK SPARRER, BOUNCING SOULS, STREET DOGS, BISHOPS GREEN, SUEDE RAZORS, BUM CITY SAINTS, SMALLTOWN, LENNY LASHLEY'S GANG OF ONE

10/29 - CRUISE-IN - BANQUET, DEATH RAY CHARLES, DJ EYEMAN

10/30 - GREAT APES, VOID BOYS, PHILISTINES, MOMS

10/31 - HALLORAGER III - GLITTER WIZARD, COOL GHOULS, HAZZARD'S CRUE, CHEAP SHITCK

11/09 - BLACK OAK ARKANSAS, WILD EYES, WHITE BARONS

11/13 - WATER LIARS, TRAVIS HAYES & THE YOUNG DAZE, M. LOCKWOOD PORTER

11/14 - SELF DEFENSE FAMILY, CREATIVE ADULT, WILD MOTH, SLOW BLOOM

11/16 - BUSDRIVER, SISTER CRAYON

11/20 - TTNG, EMMA RUTH BUNDLE, MYLETS

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SOUL

Bubble Lounge: Big Blu Soul Quartet, 6pm, free.
Knockout: "Oldies Night," w/ DJs Primo, Daniel, Lost Cat, and friends, 10pm, \$5.
SFJAZZ Center: Fredericks Brown, in the Joe Henderson Lab, 7 & 8:30pm, \$25.
Yoshi's San Francisco: Dwele, 8 & 10pm, \$26-\$30.

SATURDAY 18

ROCK

Bender's: Black Cobra, Wild Eyes, Culture Abuse, 10pm
Hemlock Tavern: Screaming Females, Pujol, Acid Fast, 9pm, \$8.
Hotel Utah: Rose Windows, Xu Xu Fang, 9pm, \$10.
The Independent: Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Hunter Hunted, Junior Prom, 9pm, \$35.
The Knockout: VKTMS, The Grannies, Evil Ted & The Thick Pink Antiseptic, The Divvys, 4pm, \$6.
Neck of the Woods: Deathtrap America, When We Met, Truants, 9:30pm, \$8.
Slim's: Ancient Mariner, Dedvolt, No More Solace, We Are Relentless, 9pm, \$14.

DANCE

Amnesia: "Rhythm Control," w/ DJs J-Maz, Johnny Nunes, Jmontag, and guests, Third Saturday of every month, 10pm, \$5.
Audio Discotech: Chris Lake, Bones, 9:30pm, \$10 advance.
BeatBox: "Evolution," w/ DJs Dave Aude & Russ Rich, 10pm, \$20-\$25.
Cat Club: "New Wave City: 22-Year Anniversary," w/ DJs Skip, Shindog, Low-Life, Donimo, and Andy T, 9pm, \$12.
DNA Lounge: "Bootie S.F.," w/ A+D, DJ MC2, Guy Ruben, Meikee Magnetic, Mixtress ShiZaam, Myster C, Mr. Washington, more, 9pm, \$10-\$20.
EndUp: "The Show," w/ Ben Seagren, Dean Samaras, and guests (starts 2am Sunday morning).
Lookout: "Bounce!," 9pm, \$3.
Madrone Art Bar: "Fringe," w/ DJs Blondie K & subOctave, 9pm, \$5 (free before 10pm).
Mezzanine: Goldfish, Bit Funk, Baron von Luxxury, Matt Haze, 10pm, \$18-\$20.
Milk Bar: "The Queen Is Dead: A Tribute to the Music of Morrissey & The Smiths," w/ DJ Mario Muse & guests, 9pm
Monarch: "Black Magic Disko," w/ Christian Löffler, Anton Tumas, Bob Campbell, 9pm, \$10-\$20.
Powerhouse: "Beatpig," 9pm
Public Works: "House of Bass," in the OddJob Loft, 9pm, free with RSVP.
Raven: "Club Raven," w/ DJ Mark Andrus, 9pm, \$10.
Rickshaw Stop: "Gameboi S.F.," w/ VJ LaRock, 9:30pm, \$8-\$15.
Ruby Skye: Jaytech, 9pm, \$15-\$30 advance.
S.F. Eagle: "Dragula S.F.: Demented Disney," w/ The Boulet Brothers, Heklina, Sister Roma, more, 9pm, \$5-\$10.
Supperclub San Francisco: "Perception: Black Magic," w/ Deep Jesus, Jimmy Bell, Alastair, Miguel Alvarado, 10pm
Vessel: Third Party, 10pm, \$10 advance.

HIP-HOP

111 Minna Gallery: "Shine," 10pm
Abbey Tavern: "The Get Down," w/ resident DJs Bluz & Relic, 9:30pm, free.
Beaux: "Swagger Like Us," w/ DJs dav0 & Boyfriend, 9pm
John Colins: "The Bump," w/ The Whooligan, 10pm, free.
The Knockout: "The Booty Bassment," w/ DJs Dimitri Dickinson & Ryan Poulsen, 10pm, \$5.
Showdown: "Purple," w/ DJs ChaunceyCC & Party Pablo, 10pm
Slate Bar: "So Fresh," w/ DJs Twin Spin & Dave Tactics, 9:30pm

ACOUSTIC

50 Mason Social House: The Singer & The Songwriter, Frinj, 7pm, \$10.
Atlas Cafe: Craig Ventresco and/or Meredith Axelrod, 4-6pm, free.
Plough & Stars: Zack Joseph with Ira Wolf, 9pm
Riptide: The Rock Soup Ramblers, 9:30pm, free.

JAZZ

Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: Bill "Doc" Webster & Jazz Nostalgia, 7:30pm, free.
Royal Cuckoo: Steve Lucky & Carmen Getit, 7:30pm, free.
Savanna Jazz Club: Pascal Bokar Group, 7:30pm, \$8.
SFJAZZ Center: Denise Perrier, in the Joe Henderson Lab, 7 & 8:30pm, \$25.
Sheba Piano Lounge: The Robert Stewart Experience, 9pm

INTERNATIONAL

1015 Folsom: "Pura," 9pm, \$20.
Bissap Baobab: "Paris-Dakar African Mix Coupe Decale," 10pm, \$5.
Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Ceci Bastida, Fermin Muguruza, Tania de Sousa, 9pm, \$12-\$15.
Cafe Claude: Trio Garufa, 7:30pm, free.
Cigar Bar & Grill: VibraSÓN, 10pm

Make-Out Room: "El SuperRitmo," w/ DJs Roger Mas & El Kool Kyle, 10pm, \$5 before 11pm
Nurse Theatre: Snatam Kaur & GuruGanesha, 8pm, \$15-\$108.
Pachamama Restaurant: Eddy Navia & Pachamama Band, 8pm, free.
Public Works: "Non Stop Bhangra," with DJs Jimmy Love, Sandeep Kumar, 9pm, \$15-\$20.
Ramp: Charanson, 5:15pm
Revolution Cafe: Go Van Gogh, Third Saturday of every month, 9pm, free/donation.
Rite Spot Cafe: Redwood Tango Ensemble, 8:30pm, free.
Space 550: "Club Fuego," 9:30pm

SUNDAY 19

ROCK

Amnesia: Scraper, Dancer, Pleasure Gallows,

9pm, \$5.
Hemlock Tavern: Beast Fiend, Manatees, Bad Daddies, 8:30pm, \$7.
Make-Out Room: Odawas, Yea-Ming & The Rumours, Latitude, Lucy & La Mer, 7:30pm, \$8.

DANCE

Audio Discotech: "Direct to Earth: 3-Year Anniversary," w/ [a]pendics.shuffle, Bryan Zentz, Nikita, more, noon, \$10-\$20.
BeatBox: "Communion," w/ DJ Corey Craig, 5-9pm, \$10.
Beaux: "Big Top," 9pm
Cellar: "Replay Sundays," 9pm, free.
Edge: "'80s at 8," w/ DJ MC2, 8pm
Elbo Room: "Dub Mission," w/ DJ Vadim featuring Katrina Blackstone, DJ Sep, 9pm, \$8-\$11.
EndUp: "Sundaze," 1pm, free before 3pm
F8: "Stamina," w/ Om Unit, Method One, Adept, 10pm, free.

Independent: Sinkane, Helado Negro, 8pm, \$18.
The Knockout: "Sweater Funk," 10pm, free.
Lookout: "Jock," Sundays, 3-8pm, \$2.
MatrixFillmore: "Bounce," w/ DJ Just, 10pm
Q Bar: "Gigante," 8pm, free.
S.F. Eagle: "Disco Daddy," w/ DJ Bus Station John, 7pm, \$5.

HIP-HOP

Boom Boom Room: "Return of the Cypher," 9:30pm, free.
Honey Hive: Random aka MegaRan, Fresh Kils, Coolzey, The Lobetrotters Collective, Browse & Cyberclops, Bottled Water, more, 6pm, \$15.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 94 >>



WED, OCT 15
NEW WEST GUITAR GROUP
with Sara Gazarek



THU, OCT 16 - 8:00
GREG OSBY 4



THU OCT 16 - 10:30
DJ QBERT



FRI - SAT, OCT 17-18
DWELE



SUN, OCT 19
RANA FARHAN



TUE - WED, OCT 21-22
GIRALDO PILOTO & KLIMAX

TUE, OCT 23
TOMMY IGOE GROOVE CONSPIRACY
feat. Drew Zingg

THU, OCT 30
JAI UTTAL

FRI, OCT 31
An Evening with AMEL LARRIEUX

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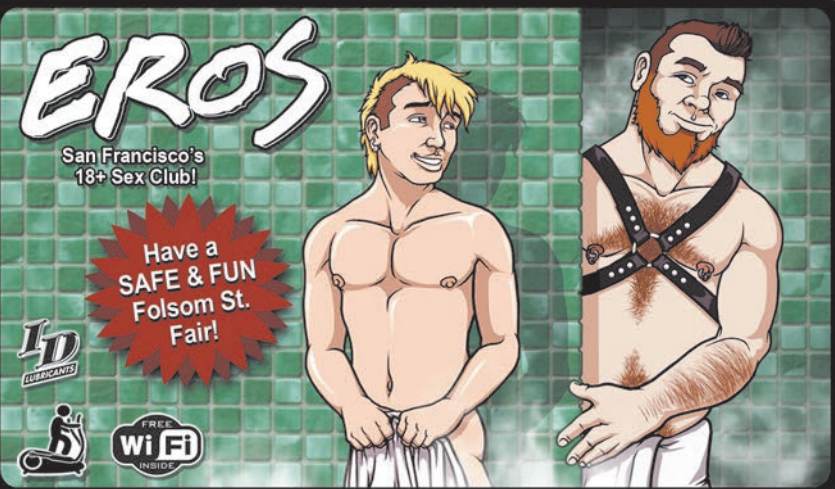
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Wed, Oct 15 - East Bay Album Release Party

ENSEMBLE MIK NAWOOJ

Wed, Oct 15 - Late Night Series, A tribute to Tom Waits & Screamin' Jay Hawkins

WHISTLIN' PAST THE GRAVEYARD



Thu, Oct 16
90s jangle pop
GIN BLOSSOMS



Sat, Oct 18
Smooth jazz saxophonist
RICHARD ELLIOT

Sun, Oct 19 - The scintillating saxtress of smooth jazz

JEANETTE HARRIS

Sun, Oct 19 - Late Night Series

MICHAEL WARD

Mon, Oct 20

GEORGE BROOKS
w/ Alam Khan and Salar Nader



Tue-Wed, Oct 21-22
Music legend & Rock 'N' Roll Hall-of-Famer
LEON RUSSELL

Thu, Oct 23

An Evening with TERRY BOZZIO

Fri-Sun, Oct 24-26 - 6x GRAMMY®-winning contemporary jazz innovator

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Tue, Oct 28

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feat. Anthony Jackson & Steve Smith

Mon-Tue, Nov 3-4

AMERICA

Sat-Sun, Nov 8-9

FOGHAT

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WED, OCT 15

LA BOHEMIA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Russian Red

BABES



THU, OCT 16

J. RODDY WALSTON & THE BUSINESS



FLY GOLDEN EAGLE

FRI, OCT 17

SINKANE

HELADO NEGRO



SUN, OCT 19

PERFUME GENIUS



TUE, OCT 21

MATTEAH BAIM



WED, OCT 22

MINERAL

INTO IT. OVER IT., HOLIDAY FRIENDS

THU, OCT 23
CHUBBIES SHORTS PRESENTS
CON BRO CHILL
INTERGALACTIX

SAT, OCT 25
RACHAEL YAMAGATA
HEMMING

SUN, OCT 26
SF SKETCHFEST PRESENTS: COMEDY
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ADVANTAGE

JULY TALK
TUE, OCT 28
LA BOHEMIA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
LA SANTA CECILIA

LA MISA NEGRA
WED, OCT 29
THE PREATURES

CIRCA WAVES

Make-Out Room



WEDNESDAY 10/15 AT 7PM FREE
POETRY WORLD SERIES
LITQUAKE

FOLLOWING AT 9PM FREE
BURN DOWN THE DISCO!
80'S DANCE PARTY!
GROOVE, WAVE, GOTH, SYNTH-POP, HIP-HOP
DJ 2SHY-SHY, & DJ MELT W/ U

THURSDAY 10/16 AT 7:30PM FREE
VINTAGE EROTICA/BURLESQUE
W/NINA HARTLEY AND MORE!

FOLLOWING AT 10PM FREE
IN 'N' OUT
SOUL & MOD CLASSICS FROM THE '60S & '70S!
W/ THE SELECTER DJ KIRK & SPECIAL GUESTS

FRIDAY 10/17 AT 7PM FREE
R&B/ROCK WRITERS
W/LIVE MUSIC BY VICTOR
KRUMMENACHER, READINGS FROM JOEL
SELVIN, DENNIS MCNALLY, GINA ARNOLD,
KEN & KEITH ZIMMERMAN, MICHAEL
GOLDBERG, RICHIE UNTERBERGER, EMCEE
DENISE SULLIVAN & BRUCK COCKBURN

FOLLOWING AT 10PM \$5
LOOSE JOINTS!
W/ DJ CENTIPEDE, DAMON BELL, & THOM THUMP
AFROBEAT, SOUL, HIP HOP, & MORE!

SATURDAY 10/18 AT 7PM FREE
LITCRAWL - THE RUMPUS -
LITQUAKE

FOLLOWING AT 10PM \$5/\$10 AT 11PM
EL SUPERRITMO!
DJ EL KOOL KYLE Y AND DJ ROGER MÁS
CUMBIA, DANCEHALL, HIP-HOP, REGGAETON,
SALSA BUENA Y MAS BAILABLES PA' LAS MENAS

SUNDAY 10/19 AT 7:30PM \$8
ODAWAS + YEA-MING & THE
RUMOURS + LATITUDE +
LUCY & LA MER

MONDAY 10/20 AT 7:30PM FREE
SAD BASTARDS CLUB
SONGWRITER ROUND-ROBIN
W/ HOST TOM HEYMAN, KATHLEEN HASKARD,
JACOB ARANDA, AND DAVID HANDLER

FOLLOWING AT 10PM FREE
WHISKEY RIVER
W/ DJS HANDLEBARS & PRETTY RICKY
BOOZE-FUELED, HARD-LIVIN',
HEART-BREAKIN', FOOT-STOMPIN',
VINTAGE COUNTRY!

TUESDAY 10/21 AT 7PM \$10
WRITE CLUB!
WE PUNCH YOU WITH OUR WORD FISTS!
6 WRITERS, FOR 7 MINUTES, EACH IN 3
BOUNDS OF LITERARY FISTICUFFS.
YOU PICK THE WINNERS!

FOLLOWING AT 9:30PM FREE
SLOW JAMS
DEEP & SWEET 60S SOUL
DJ PRIMO & FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY 10/22 AT 7PM \$8
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\$23.75 FOR FESTIVAL PASS
FILTER MAGAZINE PRESENTS
CULTURE COLLIDE NIGHT 2:
BEAT CONNECTION, SLEEP THIEVES,
MONOKINI, THE DELTA RIGGS,
WAG, POP STRANGERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 9:30 PM - \$6
FUNKIFIED-ELECTRO-TROPICAL-GETDOWN
HI LIFE
WITH RESIDENT DJS
PLEASUREMAKER & IZZY WISE
AND SPECIAL GUESTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, EARLY: 8 PM - \$20
NUCLEAR WAR NOW! & LUCIFER'S HAMMER PRESENTS
REVENGE (NWN RECORDS)
THE HAUNTED PROCESS
(BLACK TWILIGHT CIRCLE)
ANTEBELLUM, INVOCATION WAR, ACIUALLI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, EARLY 6-7PM
LITQUAKE LITCRAWL

LATER 10 PM - \$10
SPINNING 80S SOUL 45S

SATURDAY NIGHT
SOUL PARTY

WITH DJS
LUCKY, PAUL PAUL,
AND PHENGREN OSWALD
\$5 DISCOUNT IN SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 9 PM - \$8 ADV/ \$11
DUB MISSION
PRESENTS THE BEST IN DUB, ROOTS REGGAE & DANCEHALL

DJ VADIM
(U.K.) LIVE SOUND SYSTEM FEATURING

KATRINA
BLACKSTONE
PLUS DJ SEP

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 9 PM - \$7
BODYSHOCK PRESENTS

STONEBURNER
(STEVEN ARCHER OF EGO LIKENESS)

PLUS CAROLINE BLIND
(SUNSHINE BLIND) AND
DJ CRACKWHORE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 9 PM - \$7
BWAX PRESENTS

PORRETA FORRÓ NIGHTS!
DONA FRANCISCA (LIVE)
DJ ELAN (BRAZIL)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 9 PM - \$5
A NIGHT OF NEW BEAT: EBM, INDUSTRIAL
BODYSHOCK

WITH RESIDENT DJS
BLK RAINBOW & CRACKWHORE
PLUS GUESTS

UPCOMING SHOWS

THU 10/23 HI LIFE
FRI 10/24 PORCH/ BRUBAKER
SAT 10/25 SATAN (UK)/ SLOUGH FEG
SUN 10/26 DUB MISSION: DJ SEP
MON 10/27 RAVEN/ HELL FIRE

LISTINGS MUSIC

CONT>>

MONDAY 20

ROCK

DNA Lounge: Before the Mourning, Requiem, Malaki, Linmus, Manisfestiv, 7:30pm, \$8-\$10.
Hemlock Tavern: Lil Dowager, Mercy Ties, Divider, 8:30pm, \$7.
Milk Bar: DoublePlusGood, 10pm, free.

DANCE

Beaux: "Opulence," 9pm
Delirium Cocktails: "Null & Void," w/ DJs Bite Mark & Erix, 10pm, free.
DNA Lounge: "Death Guild," with DJs Decay, Joe Radio, Melting Girl, 9:30pm, \$3-\$5.
Elbo Room: Stoneburner, Caroline Blind, DJ Crackwhore, 9pm, \$7.
Madrone Art Bar: "M.O.M.," w/ DJ Gordo Cabeza & Timoteo Gigante, 8pm, free.
Q Bar: "Wanted," w/ DJs Key&Kite and Richie Panic, 9pm, free.

ACOUSTIC

Amnesia: Windy Hill, 9pm, free.
Fiddler's Green: Terry Savastano, 9:30pm, free.
Hotel Utah: Open Mic with Brendan Getzell, 8pm, free.
Make-Out Room: "Sad Bastard Club," w/ Tom Heyman, Kathleen Haskard, Jacob Aranda, David Handler, 7:30pm, free.
Saloon: Peter Lindman, 4pm

JAZZ

Cafe Divine: Rob Reich, 7pm
Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: Eugene Pliner Quartet with Tod Dickow, 7:30pm, free.
Le Colonial: Le Jazz Hot, 7pm, free.
Sheba Piano Lounge: City Jazz Instrumental Jam Session, 8pm

TUESDAY 21

ROCK

Amnesia: Haunted Summer, 9pm, \$7-\$10.
Bottom of the Hill: Effortless Good Looks, PSDSP (Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project), Ice Cream, 9pm, \$8.
Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Christian Bland & The Revelators, Burnt Ones, The Spyrals, 9pm, \$12.
El Rio: Mane, Rakta, Interior 27, 8pm, \$8.
Hemlock Tavern: Pookie & The Poodlez, Chastity Belt, Cumstain, 8:30pm, \$7.
Independent: Perfume Genius, Matthea Baim, 8pm, \$16-\$18.
Knockout: Obliterations, Baptists, Torch Runner, Fassbender, DJ Hard Times, 9:30pm, \$8.
Rickshaw Stop: Big Ups, LVL UP, Joyride!, 8pm, \$8-\$10.

DANCE

Aunt Charlie's Lounge: "High Fantasy," w/ DJ Viv, Myles Cooper, & guests, 10pm, \$2.
Boom Boom Room: "Time Warp Tuesdays," w/ DJ Madison, 9pm, free.
Monarch: "Soundpieces," 10pm
Q Bar: "Switch," w/ DJs Jenna Riot & Andre, 9pm, \$3.
Underground SF: "Shelter," 10pm, free.

JAZZ

Burritt Room: Terry Disley's Rocking Jazz Trio, 6pm, free.
Cafe Divine: Chris Amberger, 7pm
Jazz Bistro at Les Joulins: Clifford Lamb, Mel Butts, and Friends, 7:30pm, free.
Le Colonial: Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, 7pm
Verdi Club: "Tuesday Night Jump," w/ Stompy Jones, 9pm, \$10-\$12.
Wine Kitchen: Hot Club Pacific, 7:30pm

BLUES

Biscuits & Blues: "Bay City Blues," w/ Chris Cain, 7 & 9pm, \$20.
Elite Cafe: "Delta Blues Dinner Party," w/ Bill Phillippe, 6pm
Saloon: G.G. Amos Duo, 5:30pm; Lisa Kindred, 9:30pm

SOUL

Amoeba Music: Jessie Ware, 6pm, free.
Make-Out Room: "Slow Jams," w/ DJ Primo & friends, 9:30pm, free. **SFBG**



KIDS ENJOY THE PETTING ZOO AT THE POTRERO HILL FESTIVAL.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE POTRERO HILL FESTIVAL

Listings are compiled by Guardian staff. Submit items for the listings at listings@sfbg.com. For further information on how to submit items for the listings, see Selector.

WEDNESDAY 15

Litquake Various venues, SF; www.litquake.org. Through Sat/18. San Francisco's annual literary festival turns 15 this year, with a week full of live readings, performances, panels, and multimedia events.

THURSDAY 16

"Freedom Archives Celebrates 15 Years" African American Art and Culture Complex, 762 Fulton, SF; www.freedomarchives.org. 7-9:30pm, \$15. Celebrate the Freedom Archives, which preserves the Bay Area's radical history through an online database and other sources, at this festive event. Live music, spoken word, tributes from movement elders, and more.

FRIDAY 17

Joe Clifford Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck, Berk; www.pegasusbookstore.com. 7:30pm, free. The author reads from his new novel, *Lamentation*.

SATURDAY 18

Croatian Heritage Festival Croatian American Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga, SF; www.croatianamericanweb.org. 3-11pm, \$15 (children free). A variety of Croatian music groups — including headliners Klapa Ruzmarin, an a capella folk group — perform at this cultural festival.

Half Moon Bay Art and Pumpkin Festival Main between Mill and Spruce, Half Moon Bay; www.miramarevents.com. 9am-5pm, free. Through Sun/19. They don't call Half Moon Bay the World Pumpkin Capital for nothing — the coastal town presents its 44th annual gourd-tastic throwdown with three stages of music, the Great Pumpkin Parade (Sat/18 at noon), a haunted house attraction, expert Jack O' Lantern carving, and food and drinks galore.

Noe Valley Harvest Festival 24th St between Sanchez and Church, SF; www.noevalleyharvest-festival.com. 10am-5pm, free. This 10th annual shindig aims to help you get a jump on holiday shopping, with over 50 local artisans showing their creations. Also: two stages of music, costume contests for dogs and kids, a dunk tank, a pumpkin patch, and more.

Potrero Hill Festival 20th St between Wisconsin and Missouri, SF; www.potrerofestival.com. 11am-4pm, free. Now in its 25th year, this neighborhood block party features local food and entertainment — including a kickoff Cajun-style brunch (\$5-12) with Dixieland jazz — plus pony rides and a bouncy house for kids.

Stage listings are compiled by Guardian staff. Performance times may change; call venues to confirm. Reviewers are Robert Avila, Rita Felciano, and Nicole Gluckstern. Submit items for the listings at listings@sfbg.com.

THEATER

OPENING

Ego and Insufficiency Z Below, 470 Florida, SF; www.zspace.org. \$20-35. *Ego* previews Wed/15, 7:30pm. Opens Sat/18, 8pm. Runs Sun/19, Oct 26, Nov 2, and 9, 5pm; Oct 22, 29, and Nov 5, 7:30pm; Oct 25, Nov 1, and 8, 8pm. Through Nov 9. *Insufficiency* previews Thu/16, 7:30pm. Opens Fri/17, 8pm. Runs Oct 23, 30, and Nov 6, 7:30pm; Oct 24, 31, and 7, 8pm. Through Nov 7. ZSpace presents two plays by 90-year-old scientist and playwright Carl Djerassi, best-known for developing the birth control pill.

The Tempest Burriel Clay Theatre, 762 Fulton, SF; www.african-americanshakes.org. \$15-34. Opens Sat/18, 8pm. Runs Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Through Nov 9. African-American Shakespeare Company stages the seafaring classic in Milan, circa 2020, with Michael Gene Sullivan starring as Prospero.

Terror-Rama Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy, SF; www.awesometheatre.org. \$20. Opens Fri/17, 8pm. Runs Fri-Sat, 8pm. Through Nov 1. Awesome Theatre performs new plays by Nicholas C. Pappas and Anthony R. Miller, inspired by grindhouse horror films.

BAY AREA

Harry Thaw Hates Everybody Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby, Berk; www.shotgunplayers.org. \$5-30. Previews Wed/15-Thu/16, 7pm; Fri/17-Sat/18, 8pm; Sun/19, 5pm. Opens Oct 23, 7pm. Runs Wed-Thu, 7pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 5pm (Nov 23, show at 2pm). Through Nov 23. Shotgun Players presents Laural Meade's drama, inspired by the life of early 20th century model and scandal magnet Evelyn Nesbit, aka "The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing."

Obscura Aurora Theatre Company, 2081 Addison, Berk; www.auroratheatre.org. \$28-32. Opens Wed/15, 8pm. Runs Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Nov 2. Aurora Theatre Company presents Christian Cagigal's intimate magic show.

Redwolf Flight Deck, 1540 Broadway, Oakl; www.raggedwing.org. \$25-40. Opens Fri/17, 8pm. Runs Fri-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 2pm); Sun, 7pm. Through Nov 8. Ragged Wing Ensemble performs a world premiere play by Amy Sass and Anthony Clarvoe, a thriller inspired by Little Red Riding Hood.

The 39 Steps Hillbarn Theatre, 1285 East Hillsdale, Foster City; www.hillbarntheatre.org. \$23-42. Opens Thu/16, 8pm. Runs Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Nov 2. Hillbarn Theatre performs the Tony-winning Broadway comedy.

ONGOING

Absolutely Fabulous Stage Werx, 446 Valencia, SF; www.eventbrite.com/e/absolutely-fabulous-ab-fab-tickets-12641718721. \$15-35. Thu, 8pm; Fri, 11pm. Through Dec 12. The hit British sitcom takes the stage thanks to the Royal British Comedy Theatre — despite its name, an SF company with a cast that includes Terrence McLaughlin, ZsaZsa Lufthansa, Annie Larson, Dene Larson, and Raya Light.

Adventures of a Black Girl: Traveling While Black Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St, SF; www.brava.org. \$15. Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Through Oct 26. Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe performs her funny, poignant exploration of the impact of African migration.

The Barbary Coast Revue Sub/Mission Gallery, 2183 Mission, SF; www.barbarycoastrevue.com. \$20. Sat, 8pm. Through Nov 29. Join Mark Twain on an interactive musical tour of Gold Rush-era San Francisco.

Die! Mommie, Die! New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness, SF; www.nctcsf.org. \$25-45. Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Nov 2. New Conservatory Theatre Center performs Charles Busch's campy comedy.

Do I Hear a Waltz? Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson, SF; www.42ndstmoon.org. \$25-75. Wed/15-Thu/16, 7pm; Fri/17, 8pm; Sat/18, 6pm; Sun/19, 3pm. 42nd Street Moon opens its 22nd season with this 1960s-set tell of a lonely American tourist (Tony nominee Emily Skinner) vacationing in Venice.

The Dumbwaiter Unscripted Theatre Company, 533 Sutter, SF; <http://therabbitholesf.com>. \$25. Thu/16-Sat/18, 8pm. Rabbit Hole Theater Company performs Harold Pinter's sinister farce.

Foodies! The Musical Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, SF; www.foodiesthemusical.com. \$32-34. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Open-ended. AWAT Productions presents Morris Bobrow's musical comedy revue all about food.

Ideation San Francisco Playhouse, 450 Post, SF;

PHOTO BY JULIE MICHELLE



www.sfplayhouse.org. \$20-120. Tue-Thu, 7pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 3pm); Sun, 2pm. Through Nov 8. SF Playhouse performs the world premiere of Aaron Loeb's darkly comic suspense thriller.

Noises Off! Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, SF; www.sheltontheatre.org. \$38. Thu-Sat, 8pm. Through Oct 25. Shelton Theater performs Michael Frayn's outrageous backstage comedy.

Not a Genuine Black Man and The Waiting Period Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia, SF; www.themarsh.org. \$30-100. *Not a Genuine Black Man* runs Thu-Fri, 8pm; *The Waiting Period* runs Sat, 5pm. Through Nov 22. Brian Copeland performs two of his autobiographical solo pieces in repertory.

Pastorella Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy, SF; www.brownpapertickets.com. \$20. Thu-Sat, 8pm.

shnsf.com. \$45-210. Wed/15-Sat/18, 8pm (also Wed/15 and Sat/18, 2pm); Sun/19, 2pm. This new production of Roger O. Hirsch and Stephen Scharzt's 1972 musical won the 2013 Tony for Best Revival of a Musical.

Ransom, Texas Tides Theatre, 533 Sutter, SF; www.tidestheatre.org. \$10-30. Thu/16-Sat/18, 8pm. Virago Theatre Company performs William Bivins' Texas-set tale of escalating tension between a father and son.

Semi-Famous: Hollywood Hell Tales from the Middle New venue: Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia, SF; www.themarsh.org. \$20-100. Sat/18, 8:30pm; Sun/19, 7pm. Don Reed's latest solo show shares tales from his career in entertainment.

Shocktoberfest 15: The Bloody D butante Hypnodrome, 575 10th St, SF; www.brownpapertickets.com. \$30-35. Thu-Sat and Oct 28-29, 8pm. Through Nov 22. Thrillpeddlers promise "an evening of horror, carnage, and song" as part of the company's annual Grand Guignol extravaganza of short plays.

Slaughterhouse Five Gough Street Playhouse, 1620 Gough, SF; www.custommade.org. \$20-50. Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pm (also Sun, 3pm). Extended through Oct 26. Eric Simonson's adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's 1969 classic, performed by Custom Made Theatre Co., could prove a bit of a nonlinear whirlwind for any theatergoers who haven't read the book. Like Billy Pilgrim (in "a constant state of stage fright... because he never knows what part of his life he is going to have to act in next"), the audience plummets to the futuristic planet of Tralfamadore, flashes back to the gruesome Dresden bombings, even further back to Billy as a fragile and temperamental little boy, and then forward to Billy in a mental hospital. Each of the show's 11 actors takes on a variety of roles, and scenes last just a few minutes, with abrupt transitions marked by a loud, futuristic thrumming signal that demands attention even during breaks in the action. Minimalist set design and mimed "props" urge audience members to fill in the gaps and use their imaginations, with further enhancements offered by three large panels displaying animated versions of Vonnegut's line drawings. Among the actors, the supporting cast is particularly effective, including the multifaceted Sal Mattos (as a ferocious German soldier, an American prisoner of war, and a mental patient), and Stephanie Ann Foster, as both Pilgrim's emotionally eager wife and a compassionate, fatherly prisoner. Sam Tillis also has a nice (if sociopathic) turn as a vengeful war prisoner who promises to murder everyone who has crossed him. (Haley Brucato)

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind Boxcar

Theatre, 505 Natoma, SF; www.sfnofuturists.com. \$11-16. Fri-Sat, 9pm. Ongoing. The Neo-Futurists perform Greg Allen's spontaneous, ever-changing show that crams 30 plays into 60 minutes.

Wrestling Jerusalem Intersection for the Arts, 925 Mission, SF; www.theintersection.org. \$25-30. Thu-Sat, 7:30pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Oct 26. Aaron Davidman returns to Intersection with his hit solo performance, an exploration of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yeast Nation (the triumph of life) Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St, SF; www.rayoflighttheatre.com. \$25-36. Wed-Sat, 8pm (also Oct 25 and Nov 1, 2pm). Through Nov 1. Ray of Light Theatre performs the West Coast premiere of the new rock musical by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann (*Urinetown*).

BAY AREA

An Audience with Meow Meow Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison, Berk; www.berkeleyrep.org. \$29-89. Wed/15 and Sun/19, 7pm (also Sun/19, 2pm); Thu/16-Sat/18, 8pm (also Thu/16 and Sat/18, 2pm). This self-styled "musical play" by a winking "post-post-modern" diva (the vocally and comically talented Australian chanteuse Meow Meow) is in fact much thinner than either category suggests — more like a tired music hall variety act. Written by Meow Meow and adapted and directed by Kneehigh's Emma Rice, the routines are premised on the imperiousness and insecurities of a soi-disant megastar whose band and stage crew gradually abandon her, leaving her alone with her adoring audience. While there are one or two musical moments worth perking up a little for — in particular a vocally potent version of "Ne Me Quitte Pas," and a mood-shifting rendition of Hans Eisler and Bertolt Brecht's "The German Miserere" that feels incongruous here, like part of another and better show — the going is otherwise tough, the narrative forced and clunky in the extreme. Rice's staging not only lacks inspiration but comes with a dismal abundance of low-hanging call-out-the-audience participation laughs. Barry Humphries' Dame Edna (presumably an inspiration here) could get away with this get-the-guests approach, being a weightier and far wittier character. But here it comes across as a desperate attempt to sell a poorly written sketch supporting some unevenly appealing musical numbers. (Avila)

Fire Work Live Oak Theatre, Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck, Berk; www.theatrefirst.com. \$10-30. Fri/17-Sat/18, 8pm; Sun/19, 5pm. TheatreFirst presents the world premiere of Lauren Gunderson's romantic comedy.

Lovebirds Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston, Berk; www.themarsh.org. \$20-100. Fri/17, 8pm; Sat/18, 8:30pm. Marga Gomez brings her solo show to Berkeley after runs in SF and NYC.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro, Mtn View; www.theatreworks.org. \$19-74. Tue-Wed, 7:30pm (also Oct 29, 2pm); Thu-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 2pm); Sun, 2 and 7pm. Through Nov 2. TheatreWorks performs Stephen Sondheim's grisly, Tony-winning musical.

The Whale Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller, Mill Valley; www.marintheatre.org. \$35-58. Tue and Thu-Sat, 8pm; Wed, 7:30pm; Sun, 7pm. Through Oct 26. Marin Theatre Company performs Samuel D. Hunter's drama about a 600-pound man who reconnects with his troubled teenage daughter.

The Woman in Black Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City; <http://dragonproductions.net>. \$10-30. Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Nov 2. Dragon Theatre performs Stephen Mallatratt's adaptation of Susan Hill's horror novella. **SFBG**

Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy. Reviewers are Kimberly Chun, Dennis Harvey, Lynn Rapoport, and Sara Maria Vizcarrondo. For rep house showtimes, see Rep Clock.

OPENING

Awake: The Life of Yogananda The next time you're saying a *namaste* at the end of yoga class, add a shout-out to Paramahansa Yogananda, the influential author (*Autobiography of a Yogi*) and guru who brought yoga, meditation, and the ancient spirituality contained therein to America in the 1920s. Big names (Deepak Chopra, Krishna Das, the late George Harrison) and religious scholars get talking-head time in Paola di Florio and Lisa Leeman's glowingly positive doc, but the film's most powerful elements spring from the man himself. There's footage of his talks in Boston and Los Angeles, where he introduced rapt audiences to the concept of "having a personal relationship with the divine" (were he alive today, he might also remind the masses clad in \$150 stretch pants that yoga is supposed to be more about the mind than the perky butt). Though he was embraced by many, he also inspired some derision (and plenty of racism) for being a "heathen snake charmer," among other uninformed accusations; though he pursued a lower profile in his later years, his status as New Age icon has only grown, thanks to the enduring popularity of his autobiography. Yogananda's own words, read by a narrator, and re-enactments provide further insight into his unusual life. (1:27) *Balboa, Elmwood, Smith Rafael*. (Eddy)

"Bertolucci: A Film Series" With his first feature in over a decade, *Me and You*, having just (belatedly) played the Roxie, it's as good a moment as any to revisit the peak achievements of a director who once loomed as large as any in world cinema. This single-day showcase at the Castro only has room for four films, but if you had to choose just that many, this quartet (with apologies to 1976's *1900* and 1979's ever-divisive *Luna*) represent a pretty fair notion of 73-year-old Italian Bernardo Bertolucci's personal best. All feature the astonishing cinematography of Vittorio Storaro — neither of these men ever reached quite the



same level without each other. *The Conformist* (1970) stars Jean-Louis Trintignant in a visually baroque but emotionally frosty portrait (derived from an Alberto Moravia story) of an ambitious functionary who abandons all moral compass in his climb up the ladder of Mussolini's fascist Italy. The underdog of the program is 1990's Paul Bowles adaptation *The Sheltering Sky*, with John Malkovich and Debra Winger as an American couple losing themselves — including possibly their lives and sanity — in a post-World War II tour of northern Africa. A commercial flop that won mostly tepid reviews, this aesthetically dazzling existential romance even pissed off its source novelist. But taken on its own terms, it's perhaps the director's final (to date at least) masterpiece. By contrast, there was massive international success (and nine Oscars) for 1987's *The Last Emperor*, a biopic about China's Pu Yi (John Lone), who assumed the throne as a toddler and left it when monarchy gave way to the People's Republic. This

epic spectacle is being presented in a brand new restoration that has been transferred into the 3D format; co-star Joan Chen will be on hand for the screening. If you've got any energy left, the series concludes with *Last Tango in Paris*, the notorious 1973 *amour fou* saga that Bertolucci originally intended for *Conformist* leads Trintignant and Dominique Sanda. But that poised duo could hardly have summoned the full, discomfiting perversity that overwhelmed newcomer Maria Schneider and a gonzo Marlon Brando ultimately brought to this still-dizzying psychosexual fever dream. *Castro*. (Harvey)

The Best of Me Former high-school sweethearts (James Marsden and Michelle Monaghan) reconnect in this latest Nicholas Sparks schmaltzfest. (1:58)

The Blue Room Sexual obsession — and its inevitable partner in crime, murder — didn't stop with Alfred Hitchcock. Director, co-writer, and lead actor Mathieu Amalric is intent on picking up the master's mantle with this poetic take on Georges Simenon's novel. Julien (Amalric) meets regularly in that titular space to conduct a steamy affair with pharmacist Esther (Stéphanie Cléau, who also co-wrote). Love is their drug, as we piece it out after the fact, looking in on Julien being put through the paces of the French justice system. Who was caught up in their wake is an essential part of this mystery, as we glimpse the tense marriage between Julien and Delphine (Lea Drucker), made even more highly chilled and claustrophobic by their cold, modern white box of a home. All tropes that make this a familiar noir narrative, though director Amalric elevates it with sensual, artful touches: a Yoko Ono-ish shot of a fly traversing Esther's sweaty nude torso, a sunny beach scene flooded with foreboding, an autumnal revelation by the road made both beautiful and ominous by fallen leaves and faces in shadow. Clarity is overrated, *The Blue Room* hypothesizes, serving up a whodunnit intent on sustaining the mystery till the end and teasing out intimations of control and passivity, dominance and submission. One wonders why Amalric even bothers to don his actorly cap when he so clearly savors shedding light, or not, behind the camera. (1:16) *Albany, Opera Plaza, Smith Rafael*. (Chun)

The Book of Life *The Toy Story* films, *Frozen* (2013), and their ilk are lovable, but who hasn't wondered when all the *other* kids tales will get the coveted 3D animation treatment — you know, the ones that aren't rooted in well-mined European folklore or generic American suburbia? Just in time for Day of the Dead and oh, right, Hallows' Eve, is the Guillermo del Toro-produced, Jorge R. Gutierrez-directed *The Book of Life*, intent on representing the richness of Mexican culture and overflowing with action, music, fantasy, and folklorico for kids and parents with expansive global pop referents and shrinking attention spans. Peeling back the layers of a museum visit led by narrator Mary Beth (Christina Applegate), we discover the Book of Life in a secret chamber, and at its heart is a classic love triangle: young musician Manolo and budding fighter Joaquin battling for the tenderhearted Maria's attentions. The trio inspires a Day of the Dead wager between the benevolent ruler of the remembered, La Muerte (Kate del Castillo), who champions Manolo, and her counterpart and ruler of the forgotten, Xibalba (Ron Perlman), who backs Joaquin and attempts to stack the deck with a medal of everlasting life. Manolo (Diego Luna) grows up to be a frustrated

musician who sings Radiohead, tries to be a good matador in his family tradition, yet refuses to finish off the bull — "these kids with their long hair and their no-kill," grumbles his granny — while Joaquin (Channing Tatum) becomes a suave, invincible bandit-vanquisher that their small town looks to with desperation to save them from a wicked warlord. As for Maria (Zoe Saldana), she's become a smart, independent young woman with unexpected skills and absolutely no intention of playing the passive damsel in the battle for her heart. Kick in what seems like every Latino actor around, from Hector Elizondo to Danny Trejo, as well as manic action, plentiful song, witty asides, Ice Cube *and* Placido Domingo, dazzling animation that echoes folkloric motifs, and narrative twists designed to entertain as well as educate — Death isn't the dreaded black-and-white end here — and you have a winning, unexpectedly heart-tugging entry that works hard to stand alongside the best of Disney and Pixar, and succeeds. (1:35) *Presidio*. (Chun)

Fury In April 1945, just weeks before Hitler's suicide and the Third Reich's surrender, increasingly weary, desperate troops were still going at it across smoldering Germany. This latest from writer-director David Ayer (2012's *End of Watch*) taps into some war movie clichés — hey, here's a noob (Logan Lerman) to serve as convenient audience surrogate! — but is nonetheless a gripping action-drama, made all the more intense by the fact that the main characters are enclosed in a Sherman tank: Sgt. Collier (a solid Brad Pitt), aka "Wardaddy," religious "Bible" (Shia LaBeouf, surprisingly good); joker "Gordo" (*End of Watch*'s Michael Peña); "Coon-Ass" (*Walking Dead*'s Jon Bernthal, whose redneck shtick soon grows tiresome); and wide-eyed Norman (Lerman) who gets his "war name" after he earns it in act three. There's an odd interlude in which Collier and Norman share dinner with a German woman and her glowingly innocent daughter — inspired by the fabled French plantation scene in *Apocalypse Now* (1979), perhaps? — but most of *Fury* builds on the macho-bro rapport Ayer demonstrated a flair for with *Watch*, and has been used effectively in other media about war (the relationships between the men echo, for example, those among the Humvee team in 2008 Iraq War miniseries *Generation Kill*). On the technical side, the battle scenes are almost beautifully brutal, with shot-off limbs and fiery bodies framed against mist and mud. (2:13) *Four Star, Presidio, Shattuck*. (Eddy)

Harmontown You don't need to be a *Community* fan to *get* Dan Harmon, nerd hero, writer, producer, show creator, and mind behind some notably capsize projects with Ben Stiller and Sarah Silverman. After all, there's his adorable kitty, and *Harmontown* — both the name of Harmon's pod cast and this doc centered on his associated improv-y, spoken-rant/onstage-therapy tour — opens with a cozy, only slightly calculated shot of her sweet, furry face. The perpetually tousled, wild-haired Harmon is somewhat less cuddly; there's a certain dead quality to his eyes that betrays his time-shrilling yuks in the biz. Call it self-indulgent or exhibitionistic, but there's nevertheless courage, liquid and otherwise, in Harmon's often entertaining, very funny act of putting his professionally bruised, brainy, and self-conscious self on stage to mine whatever pain remains behind his obvious professional success in front of fans and strangers. "I have to look at each room and think, what am I going to say to these people for 90 minutes?" he ponders at one point. "The only thing I can do is self-destruct because of my own issues." How relevant is Harmon's determined self-exposure? Director-writer Neil Berkeley tries to make his case by turning his camera to the faces in the crowd — geek "Harmonians" carrying themselves that much prouder for having seen themselves in Harmon's characters and writing — and does his best to expose his subject's charms, as well as a few warts. Some key details are omitted but it's easy to see that girlfriend Erin McCarthy's life with Harmon isn't always a picnic, or even a fun snack run to Kum & Go. (1:41) *Roxie*. (Chun)

Lilting In Hong Khaou's evocative, affecting film, a grieving mother and a grieving lover move by halting degrees into each other's orbit as they endure the loss of the young man who is their only link. Chinese-Cambodian immigrant Junn (Pei-pei Chang) has been placed by her son, Kai (Andrew Leung), in an old folks' home somewhere on the edge of London, intended as a temporary lodging while he gathers the courage to tell his mother that he's gay and that his live-in "friend," Richard (Ben Whishaw), is in fact his boyfriend. In the wake of Kai's sudden death, Richard fumblingly attempts to approach the unwelcoming Junn, employing the

services of an amateur translator, Vann (Naomi Christie), to help Junn communicate with a fellow resident (Peter Bowles) who has been courting her. The old folks' home is a curious place, lined with vintage wallpaper and mid-century furniture in a dubious, melancholy effort to tap into the inhabitants' memories of presumably happier days. Memory is the film's central engine — scenes from the recent past drift onscreen and repeat, motif-like: lovely, slightly opaque, poignant, and more bearable to Junn and Richard than the quietly brutal, unmanageable present. Here, the two young men lie in bed as Kai anxiously ponders explaining their relationship to his mother; Junn revisits her last encounter with her son, when he nervously asks her to come to dinner. Transcending the flashback as expository device, the scenes clarify, painfully, into a sort of refuge to which the two characters, separately bereft, retreat to find what they have lost. (1:31) *Shattuck*. (Rapoport)

Rudderless After the sudden death of a loved one, what next? In indie drama *Rudderless*, a certain confused healing and even transformation can come in the form of song, director and co-writer William H. Macy seems to say. Billy Crudup's Sam is a brash, successful, sickly freeze-dried ad man, far too repressed in the classic Don Draper mode and way too Type A to pay much quality attention to his family. So when a self-serving father-son meet up with his college-age son Josh (Miles Heizer) takes a tragic turn, Sam seizes up, dramatically, on multiple levels. Years later, he's living on a boat, painting houses and hiding at the bottom of various bottles, until his ex (Felicity Huffman) forces him to face some key possessions left behind: a guitar, an amp, and a collection of passionate tunes, which speak with real urgency to young musician Quentin (Anton Yelchin). Before he knows it, Sam is in a band — a hot one, it seems, due to a certain someone's songwriting, and it's a Cinderella story, with a bit of a wrenching twist. It's made all the more compelling by Crudup's bone-deep, layered performance, a mixture of wounded despair, buried hope, and flickers of joy. (1:45) *Metreon*. (Chun)

St. Vincent Though this first feature from Theodore Melfi reeks of American Indie 101 (oh, those quirky characters — a pregnant Russian stripper, played by Naomi Watts? *Gaaahhh*), it has a none-too-secret weapon in its corner: Bill Murray, who's outstanding as the title character in a role that plays perfectly to his strengths. He's grumpy slob Vincent, who has a gambling habit (Terence Howard plays his I'm-losing-patience-with-you bookie), a serious drinking problem, and has long since run out of fucks to give about anyone. Or so it seems at first. His soft side, such as it is, is coaxed from the darkness when recently divorced Maggie (Melissa McCarthy) and her nerdy young son, Oliver (Jaeden Lieberher, very much carved from the "kid actor" mold, but still bearable), move in next door. Circumstances lead to the unemployed Vincent becoming Oliver's babysitter, and both reap surprising benefits from this seemingly ill-suited arrangement. As we learn more about Vincent — like why this junkyard dog of a man owns a fluffy white cat — we realize the reasons behind his behavior, and while Melfi's script swerves into melodrama on occasion, Murray injects enough bile to keep things in balance. Though St. Bill is the main/only reason to see *St. Vincent*, the other performances, especially McCarthy (as subtle as Watts is over-the-top) and Chris O'Dowd (as Oliver's Catholic-school teacher) are also notable. (1:42) (Eddy)

Whiplash Possibly the most nihilistic film about music ever made, writer-director Damien Chazelle's *Whiplash* goes into the mouth of madness (it's filled with bloody fingers, sweat, and tears) with jazz drummer Andrew (Miles Teller). A first-year student at a prestigious Manhattan music school, Andrew is eager to work hard and dreams of being accepted into the top-notch studio band overseen by notorious perfectionist Terence Fletcher (an outstanding J.K. Simmons). When Andrew unexpectedly gets the nod to join Fletcher's class, he's elated — until he realizes he's now under the thumb of a sadistic drill sergeant whose finely honed skills include mind-fuckery, psychological manipulation, rapid-fire insult flinging, and physical brutality. Determined to be the best, Andrew puts up with this abuse as his mental state spirals out of control, alarming his father (Paul Reiser), whose caring concern contrasts vividly with Fletcher's reign-of-terror style of leadership. Chazelle keeps the tension rat-a-tatting at almost unbearable levels — you'll hold your breath throughout, and after, you'll never listen to "Caravan" the same way again. Look for Simmons,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 100 >>

SF SHORTS

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1

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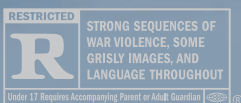
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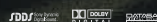


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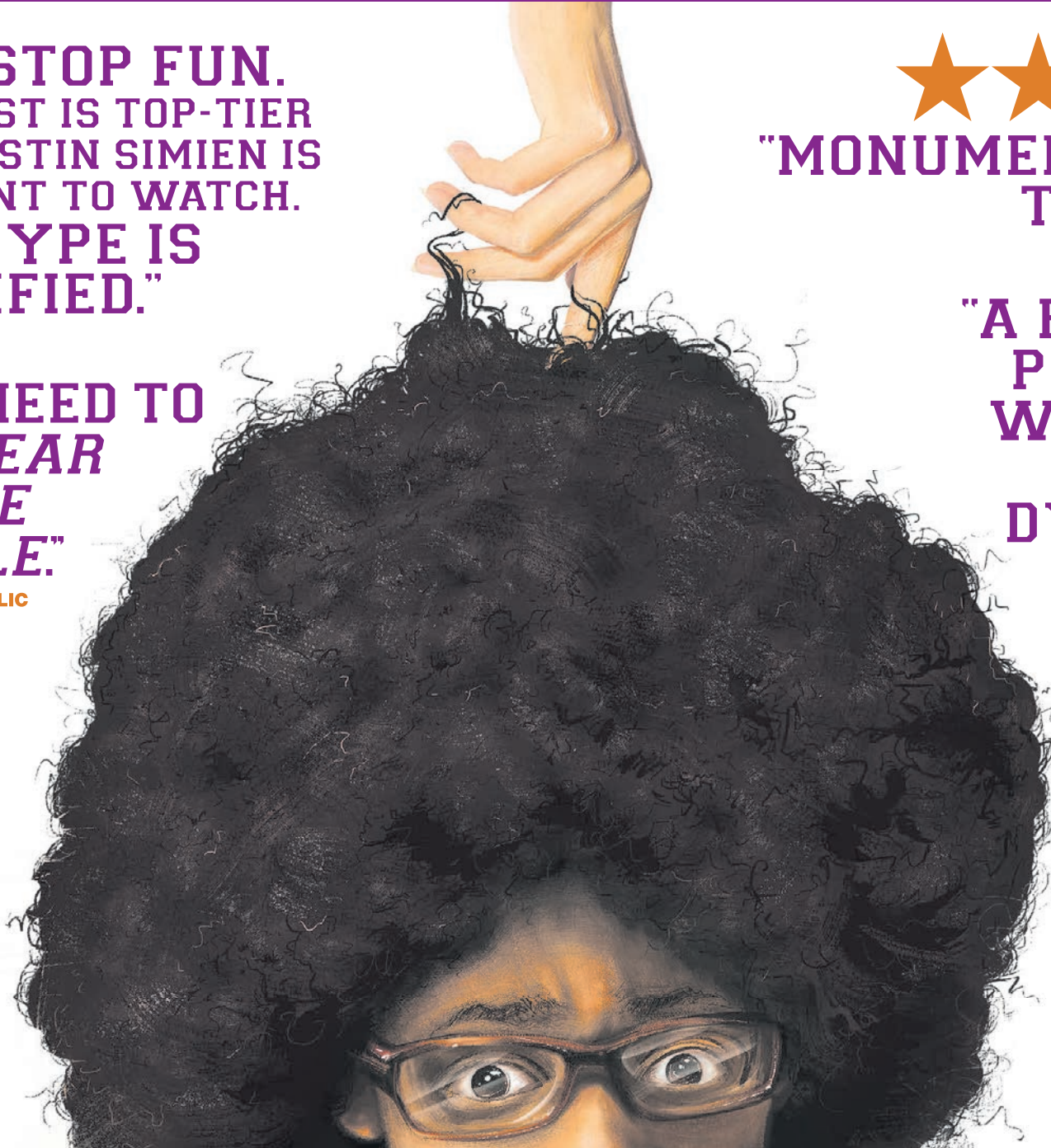


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LISTINGS FILM



LOGAN LERMAN AND BRAD PITT STAR IN WORLD WAR II DRAMA **FURY**, OUT FRI/17. PHOTO BY GILES KEYTE

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Four Star 2200 Clement. www.4star.com

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Metreon 135 Fourth St. www.amctheatres.com

New People Cinema 1746 Post. www.newpeopleworld.com

1000 Van Ness 1000 Van Ness. www.amctheatres.com

Opera Plaza 601 Van Ness. www.landmarktheatres.com

Presidio 2340 Chestnut. www.4star.com

UA Stonestown Twin 501 Buckingham. www.regmovies.com

Sundance Kabuki Cinema 1881 Post. www.sundancecinemas.com

Vogue 3290 Sacramento. www.cinemasf.com/vogue

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Rialto Cinemas Cerrito 10070 San Pablo, El Cerrito. www.rialtocinemas.com/cerrito

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Shattuck Cinemas 2230 Shattuck, Berk. www.landmarktheatres.com

UA Berkeley 2274 Shattuck, Berk. www.regmovies.com

CONT>>

by SoCal reporter Nick Schou (from which the film takes its title), *Kill the Messenger* recounts a grim tale of single-minded muckraking, professional betrayal, and how the federal government's dubious War on Drugs took an extra-grim turn during the Reagan administration. As the film opens, Webb (Jeremy Renner) is working for the Mercury News, having moved to the Bay Area with his wife (Rosemarie DeWitt) and three kids after some marital trouble back east. In the course of covering a drug dealer's trial, he gets tipped to a story connecting the CIA, the US funding of the contras in Nicaragua, and the crack cocaine that began pouring into Los Angeles and other American cities in the mid-1980s. Michael Cuesta, who since his directorial debut with *L.I.E.* in 2001 has been mainly working in television (*Homeland*, *Six Feet Under*), attempts to combine an *All the President's Men*-style journalistic crime procedural with a portrait of the man who broke the story and was in turn broken by it — or rather, by the CIA and the mainstream press, which turns on him with the vengeance, it's implied, of a handful of prestigious papers of record that got majorly scooped. The portrait, with Renner giving a nuanced, painfully sympathetic performance, comes out better than the procedural, which feels blurry in places from the speed of the discoveries. (1:52) *Metreon*, *Sundance Kabuki*. (Rapoport)

Kite Based on Yasuomi Umetsu's cult anime, known for its fetishy sex and violence involving a young girl assassin with a penchant for traditional Japanese school uniforms, South Africa-set sci-fi action indie *Kite* begins with a bang — and a hail of bone fragments and gray matter splatter when

an explosive bullet connects with a baddie's skull. Set in the dystopic near future, after a global financial meltdown, *Kite* picks up in the middle of an all-too-familiar seedy scenario: an out-of-it teen hooker in a body-con mini and neon wig is getting dragged into the elevator by a trashy sleazebag. His unnecessary cruelty to an elderly lady sharing their lift forces the damsel to break cover and unleash those exploding bullets. It turns out Sawa (India Eisley) is far from your traditional hapless victim — rather she's a brutal assassin out to avenge her parents' murders and jumped up on a military drug designed to dull the pain and memories related to PTSD, administered oh so helpfully by her father's old law-enforcement partner Aker (Samuel L. Jackson). The catch: a mystery man (Callan McAuliffe) who threatens to disrupt the smooth flow of bloody mayhem with his promise to dredge up Sawa's past. *Kite*'s acting talent — in particular Eisley and Jackson — and cinematographer Lance Gower do what they can, painting the screen with lurid hues and just as over-the-top emotive moments, with pulpy material that's high on the ultra violence (and salacious kicks for those into little girls with guns) but low on originality. (1:30) (Chun)

Left Behind Jeepers creepers, they went and remade 2000 Christian scare flick *Left Behind: The Film*, based on the best-selling book series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. Just gonna come right out and let you know the Antichrist character does not appear in Vic Armstrong's do-over. WEAK. But it does contain supremely awkward breakdancing; terrible CG of an airplane floundering after the Rapture makes flying a dicey prospect (apparently, air traffic control is a largely evangelical profession); erstwhile CW network

CONTINUES ON PAGE 104 >>

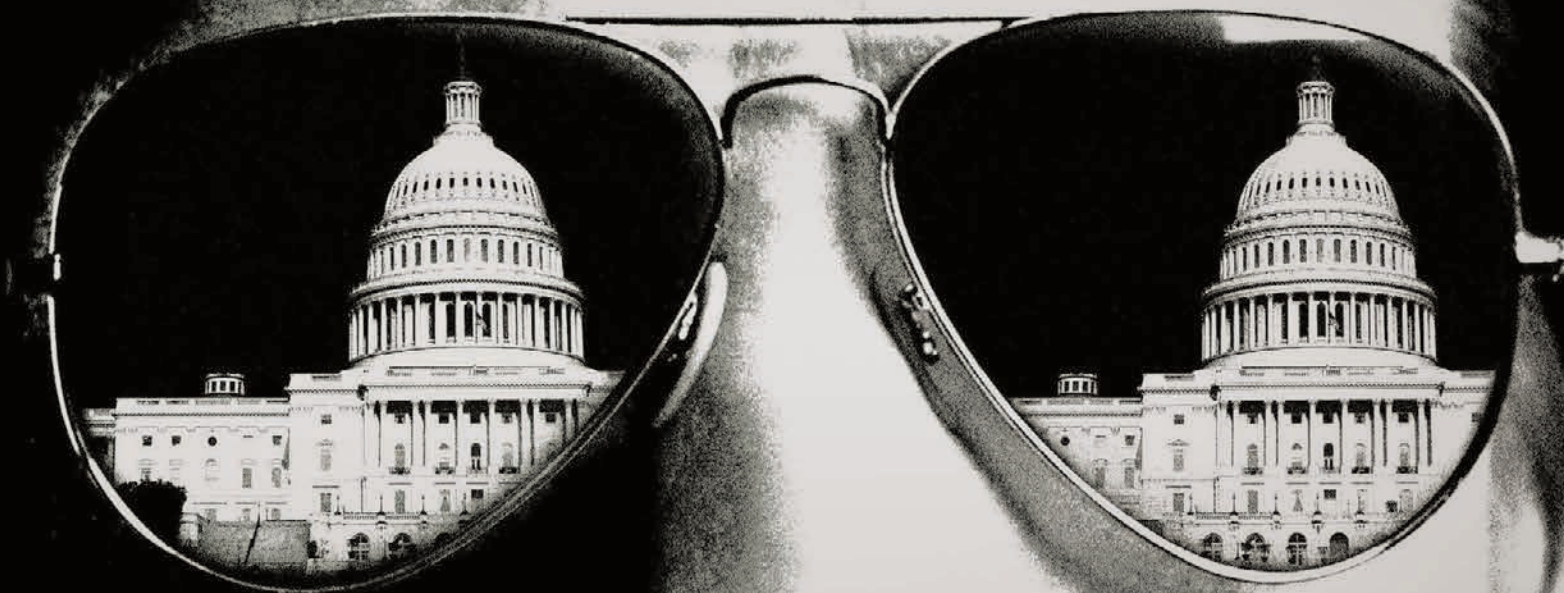
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LISTINGS FILM

CONT>>

heartthrob Chad Michael Murray as an internationally renowned investigative journalist (the same role Kirk Cameron played, also implausibly, in the original); and — best of all, and the only reason to seek out this ham sandwich of a movie — Nicolas Cage, who delivers possibly the worst performance of his career as an airline pilot whose sins include thinking about cheating on his born-again wife (Lea Thompson) and coveting U2 concert tickets. All of this brings up a very important question for our times: Does Jesus snark? (1:50) *Metreon*. (Eddy)

The Liberator Lush production values and a smoldering performance by Venezuela's best-known acting export (Édgar Ramírez), elevate this Simón Bolívar tale from mere biopic to epic (bio-epic?) It begins amid revolutionary tumult before stepping back in time to Bolívar's younger days; we're brought up to speed on the tragic early deaths of his well-to-do parents, as well as the yellow-fever death of his delicate Spanish wife and some globe-trotting that allows Ramírez to show off his flawless French (he also speaks Spanish and English in the film), and for Bolívar to meet characters who prove important to his crusade for Venezuelan independence. Bombastic battle scenes and grueling marches (in and across jungles, open fields, the snowy Andes, seaside forts, blood-stained villages, etc.) soon follow, with Bolívar's bravery and rousing speechmaking ("Freeeedooooommm!") inspiring people across northern South America and beyond, from every class and race, to join his cause. If this two-hour film feels a bit tight for such a sprawling story — especially when you consider that Ramírez's breakout role came with 2010 miniseries *Carlos*, which lavished five-and-a-half hours on the career of Carlos the Jackal — it still makes for stirring viewing. (1:59) *Four Star*. (Eddy)

Men, Women & Children The web of title characters in Jason Reitman's new film, set in a nonspecific-feeling Austin, Tex., stand in for a larger culture, digital native and immigrant alike, leading a significant portion of their lives online. A mother (Jennifer Garner) obsessed with the invidious snares of the scrolling feed, feverishly tracks the digital micro-movements of her teenage daughter (Kaitlyn Dever of 2013's *Short Term 12*), sabotaging the latter's burgeoning relationship with a sweetly troubled, Carl Sagan-quoting ex-football player (*The Fault in Our Stars*' Ansel Elgort). Another mother (Judy Greer) embraces the seedier aspects of the mercantile web, bolstering her daughter's dreams of stardom by pimping out her image to private customers. A man (Adam Sandler) and a woman (Rosemarie DeWitt) drift unconnected through their marriage and seek recourse among web escorts and a dating site for cheaters. The message, underscored with motifs running thickly through the interconnected plot lines, is that our lives and relationships are echoed and overlapped by a ghostly online population, whom our loved ones experience, if they notice, only as a zoned-out absence, a silent withdrawal from the room. Reitman (2009's *Up in the Air*), who co-wrote the film with Erin Cressida Wilson (2002's *Secretary*), finds a wealth of visual tools for mapping this populace. Texts and Facebook

messages bubble up and hover over crowd scenes in an overlay, flooding the screen with drifting commentary. At cheerleading practice, one paper-thin teenager silently backstabs another via a hailstorm of emoji. If the film doesn't issue a fiery polemic, most of its protagonists do seem caught in a stultified daze by a succession of variously proportioned screens; the emotional payoffs, and the brutal, awkward collisions, tend to come when they look up. (1:56) *Sundance Kabuki*. (Rapoport)

Pride In 1984 London, queer radical Mark (Ben Schnetzer) browbeats his coterie of fellow gay activists into raising funds for coal miners striking against P.M. Margaret Thatcher's firmly anti-unionist policies. Their success brings a reluctant invitation to visit and receive thanks from one small Welsh town of strikers, most of whom are not all that enthused to get helped by a buncha poofs. But in this loosely fact-inspired crowdpleaser by scenarist Stephen Beresford and director Matthew Warchus (a UK stage luminary whose only prior feature was the unfairly maligned Sam Shepard-penned *Simpatico* 15 years ago), adversity ultimately creates allegiance and understanding, despite such hurdles as ingrained prejudice (represented by Lisa Palfrey as a particularly homophobic miner's widow) and the still-new AIDS crisis. With Imelda Staunton, Dominic West, Paddy Considine, and Bill Nighy scattered among both the "pit and pervert" types, this feel-good flashback complete with a soundtrack full of New Wave oldies hits all the right notes even if there are few real surprises in the overall tune. (2:00) (Harvey)

The Two Faces of January The first feature directed by Hossein Amini, who previously wrote screenplays for a rather bewildering array of movies (from Thomas Hardy and Henry James adaptations to 2011 noir abstraction *Drive* and 2012 fairy tale mall flick *Snow White and the Huntsman*), it turns Patricia Highsmith's 1964 novel into an elegant wide screen thriller very much of a type that might have been shot by Hitchcock a half-century ago. And if you still don't think they make them like they used to, there's Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst, and Oscar Isaac doing a damn good job of acting, and looking, like glamorous movie stars of yore. Mortensen and Dunst's Chester and Colette MacFarland meet Isaac's Rydal while they're amid some sort of European grand tour in 1962 Athens, and he's a New Jerseyan of Greek descent eking out a living as a tour guide for debutantes. Jaded, adventure-some types, the MacFarlands are intrigued enough to hire this openly gawking wannabe for a tour of the marketplace, then invite him for dinner. It's a pleasant evening they'd all soon file and forget — except that fate brings Rydal back to the couple's hotel, where he accidentally becomes accessory to the MacFarlands' rapidly expanding sinkhole of criminality. At the one-hour point, *The Two Faces of January* looks like it might be something delicate yet rather simple — a portrait of a doomed marriage, its faults exposed by the third party the couple must take on amid crisis. But after this leisurely yet never boring buildup, Highsmith and Amini deliver so many harrowing complications you might end up shocked that this ultimately quite expansive seeming tale occupies just 96 trim minutes. (1:38) *Smith Rafael*. (Harvey) **SF8G**

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Oct. 15-21, 2014

We're almost there! Mercury will remain retrograde until the 25th. Expect delays and double-check your plans until then.

ARIES

March 21-April 19

It'll bring you trouble if you're reactive this week, even though it's only natural to want to defend yourself when things don't go your way. Avoid indulging your self-protective impulses; get touchy-feely with your heart instead and look for the opportunity to show all involved the compassion you deserve.

TAURUS

April 20-May 20

The seeds you sow now will take their sweet time to sprout, but they will eventually come to fruition. Don't be scared of making lasting changes to what you participate in and how you do it this week. The only common denominator in your life is you, so be the change you wish to see, pal. Don't wait for it to come to you.

GEMINI

May 21-June 21

Even if the changes in your life are huge improvements, they're kicking up some deep fears and may feel pretty crappy. You've got to move slowly this week, because no matter how down your head is, your heart is heavy and overwhelmed. You're on the right path, so be kind to your fears, Twin Star.

CANCER

June 22-July 22

This is not the time for self-indulgence or laziness. You are meant to take control of your fate, and to do it now. Once you've set your sights on your goals the trick will be to not get distracted by other people's shit or your own. Honor yourself by staying true to your vision this week.

LEO

July 23-Aug. 22

You need flexibility 'cause things are changing all around you. It's unclear if you're going to like everything that you have to adjust to, but adjust you must. This month's theme is letting go, and how you handle it will be defining; you're on the verge of something great, so participate, even when it's uncomfortable.

VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

There's always a reason not to do it, Virgo, and as a thinking person you can see the risk in just about anything, but especially matters of the heart. This week you are being called upon to leave your concerns in a pile and to take some emotional risks. You deserve to feel love and happiness, so go for it!

LIBRA

Sept. 23-Oct. 22

You need enough ego energy to have confidence in your choices and to give you the balls to carry them out, but not so much that you end up behaving defensively and pushing others away. This week will test your ability to hold your own without being a weirdo. When in doubt talk it out, Libra.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You don't need to isolate yourself to be in contact with your innermost self, Scorpio. You're being challenged to have healthy boundaries while interacting with people this week. Know your limits and be self-loving enough to honor them, even when going with the flow seems easier.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Follow through on your goals, Sagittarius. This week you'll be greatly rewarded for doing what you said you were going to do, and just as you planned it. Don't wait for the world to hand you things, go out and make them happen! Now is the time for intentional action.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The show must go on regardless of what's disappointing you or hurting your feelings. Assert yourself confidently through whatever feels like it's holding you back this week (Mercury retrograde be damned)! Stay clear about your end game, and unwavering on your path, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Regardless of your fears of failure you have to take some risks, Aquarius. You know what you want, you just don't know if you're brave enough to go for it. So here's your homework: Make peace with your instincts for change and then boldly pursue your dreams, even if you have to take a loss to get there.

PISCES

Feb. 19-March 20

You have to choose to be happy, and not just once, but over and over again. Make it your No. 1 priority to look for evidence of goodness in others and in your life, Pisces. You're going through a lot and it's OK if it kinda sucks; just do your best to make it all worth the struggle this week.

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